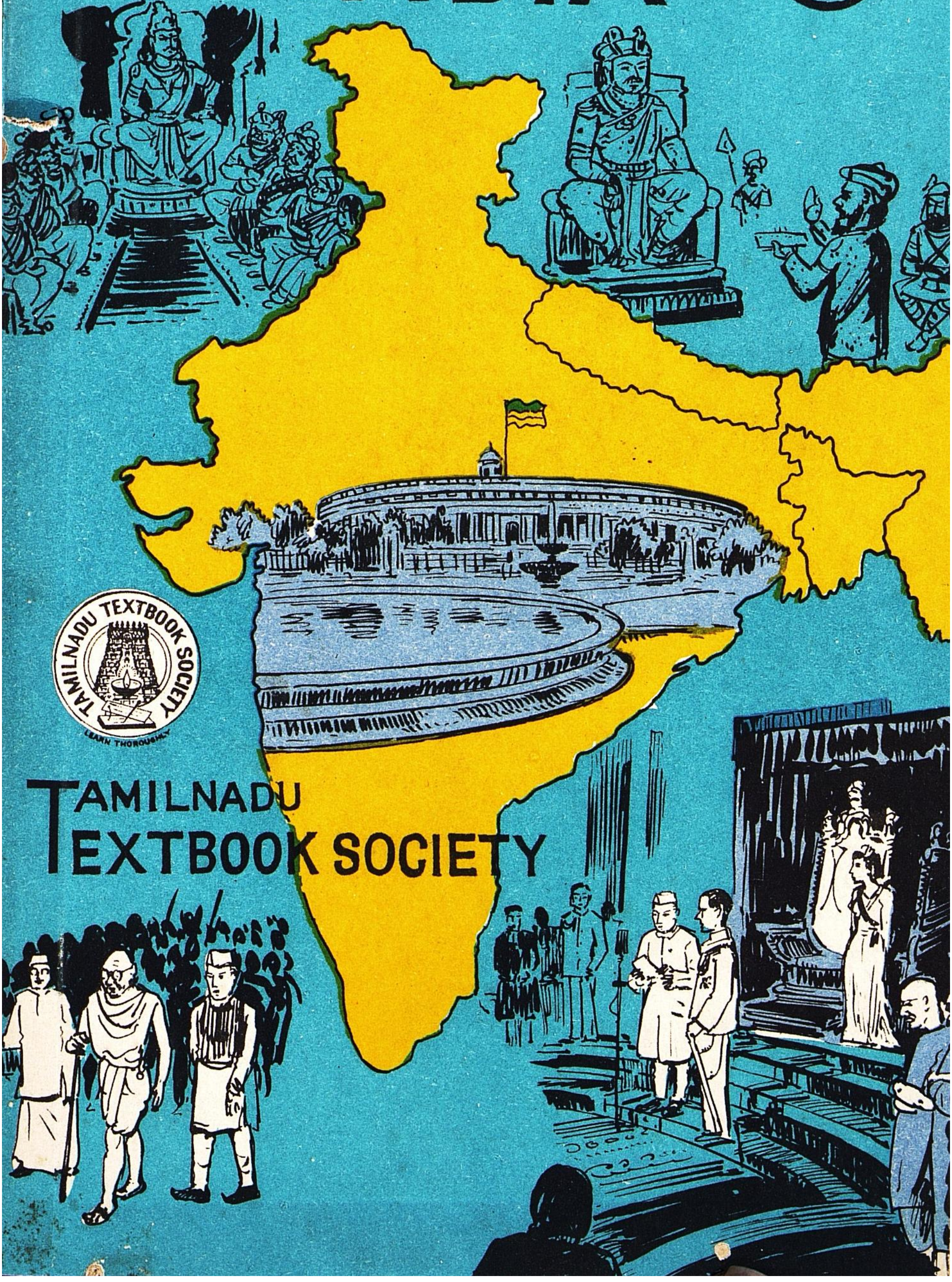
HISTORY OF INDIA 6



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CONTENTS

CHAPTER I

GEOGRAPHICAL UNITY–UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Great and ancient this Land Bharat be
For ever remember, Her children are we

—Bharati

India is our mother land. It is also known as 'Bharat'. Our country is noted for its historical eminence. It is the oldest of all the countries in

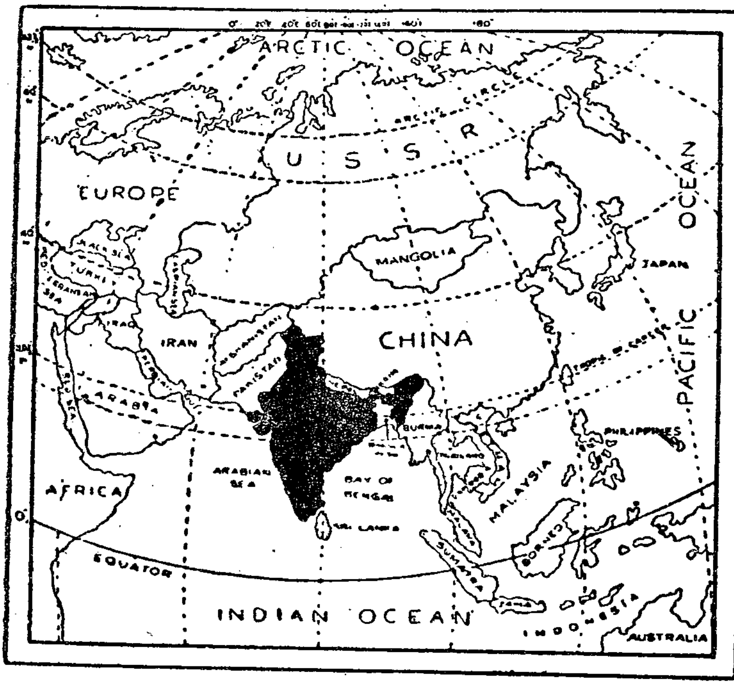


Fig. 1. Geographical position of India

the world. It is noted for its highly developed civilization and culture. We should feel a glow of pride in belonging to this ancient country of culture.

Position of India

Look at the map of Asia given in Fig. 1. You can see three peninsulas in the southern part of this continent.

The peninsula in the middle is our mother land. The Himalayas in the north, the Indian Ocean in the

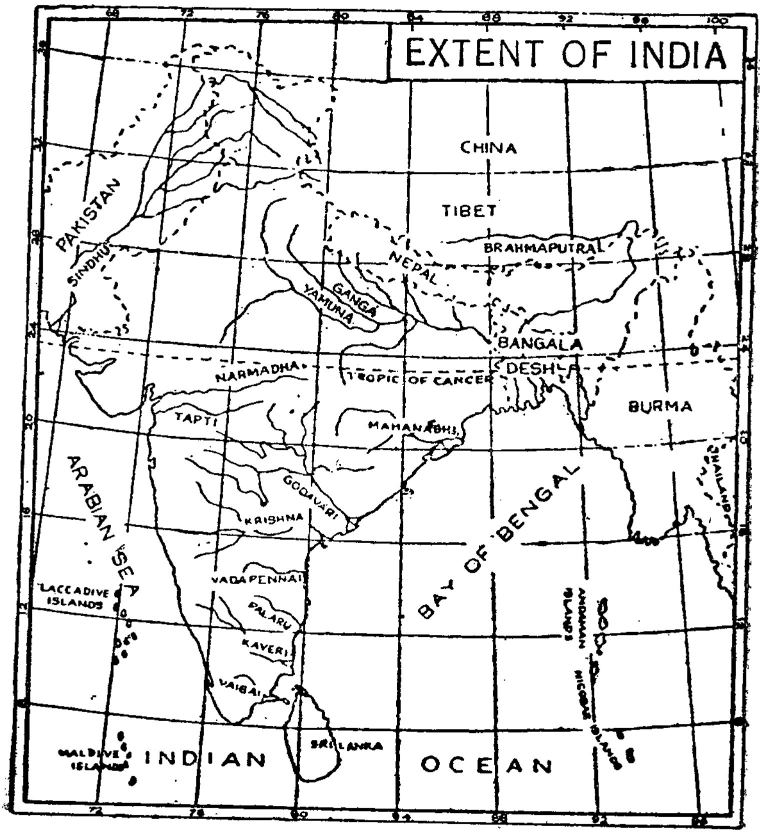


Fig. 2. Extent of India

south, the Bay of Bengal in the east and the Arabian Sea in the west form the natural boundaries. Our country lies entirely north of the Equator.

It is between 8° 4' N and 37° 6' N latitudes 68° 77' E and 97 25' E longitudes.

Extent and Population

This large country extends about 3220 Kilo metres north-south and about 2977 Kilo metres east-west. The sea coast of this country extends upto a length of about 5689 Kilo metres. Its area is about 32.68 lakh square kilo metres. It is about 2/5 the area of the United States of America. It is equal to the area of the Europe excluding Russia. It is thirteen times the area of the British Isles. According to the census of 1971 the Population is about 530 millions. In area it is the seventh big country in the world. In population it occupies the second place, next to China in the world. So our country is rightly called a sub Continent.

Our Neighbours

When India was granted freedom in August 1947, it was divided into two countries, namely India and Pakistan. Pakistan lies north-west of our country. Nepal and China lie to the north. Bangladesh and Burma lie in the east. Srilanka is the island which lies in the south-east, close to our country.

The Natural Divisions of India

A country's history and the life of the people are based on its physical features. So let us learn the physical features and their historical influence. India can be divided into three parts based on the physical features as,

(i) The Himalayan Region,

(ii) Indo-Gangetic plain, and

(iii) Peninsular India.

The Himalayan Region : The Himalayas form a mountain wall lying in the north of India. It extends from east to west running to a length of about 2400 k.m. Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, is in the Himalayas. Till recently it remained an unconquerable wall against foreign attacks. It is the source for the perennial rivers like the Indus, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. The Khyber, the Khurram, the Gumal and the Bolan passes in the west of the Himalayas enabled the Persians, the Greeks, the Kushans, the Huns, the Turks and the Mughals to enter our country in the past.

Indo-Gangetic Plain : This is the most fertile part in the world. The fertility of this plain was responsible for the rise of empires like the Mauryan, the Kushan, the Gupta, the Turkish and the Mughal. This fertility has been mainly responsible for shaping the destiny of India many a time.

Peninsular India: This region is surrounded by several mountains in the east and in the west and by the Vindhya and the Satpura ranges in the north. The Vindhya and the Satpura mountains have changed the history of our country greatly. It is difficult to cross these mountains and the dense forests adjacent to them. So peninsular India could not be integrated with North India for a long time. They had separate histories. The Dravidian culture had grown well in this region. The Vijayanagar Empire in Peninsular

India preserved Hindu religion and culture. The interest shown by the rulers of the South in seafaring was unique. The ports lying in the western and the eastern shores enabled maritime trade to be carried on with foreign countries.

Unity in Diversity

Diversity : Our motherland is a big country. There are differences in physical features and in climatic conditions. There are the snow-clad high mountains, fertile plains where perennial rivers flow, untrodden deserts and the densely populated river valleys. There are very cold regions as well as very hot regions in our country. We have both Cherapunji which receives the highest amount of rain fall and the Thar Desert which gets no rainfall at all. We have, on one hand, the tribal people who remain still uncivilised and on the other we have highly cultured urban people. The Aryans, the Kushans, the Huns, the Turks, the Mughals and many who came from other countries, settled in different parts of India and by spreading their culture and customs, contributed to differences within our country.

People in this large country speak several languages. 845 languages are spoken in our country to-day. Hindi, Urudu, Bengali, Oriya, Marathi, Gujarathi, Tamil, Kasmiri, Punjabi, Assamese, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam are spoken by 91% of the people. Among them Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam are Dravidian languages spoken by the people in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala respectively. The language spoken by the majority

of the people in a State is the official language of that State Government. Hindi and English are the official languages of the Indian Government.

Religions are also responsible for promoting differences among the people. Hinduism is the oldest religion of our country. The Hindus live in all parts of our country. The other religions like Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Islam and Sikhism are also followed in our country.

Further the vast size of our country and the natural barriers to communication could not bring about unity for a long time.

Unity : Although there is diversity among our people, education, civilisation, culture, art, politics etc. show our unity. This unity has been in existence from time immemorial. It cannot be considered as one established by the administrative system and modern education introduced by the Britishers though they contributed to some extent. 'The Ramayana' and 'The Mahabharata', the two great epics of our country are read not only in North India but also in the whole of South India. From the Himalayas in the north to Kanyakumari in the South, the temples, the ways of worship, devotional songs, religious tolerance and the promotion of languages stand for the unity of our people from time immemorial. In spite of many invasions and the establishment of new empires, Indian culture has not lost its basic feature of unity. After the advent of independence, our constitution has declared that India is one united country. Let us not forget that the land 'Bharat' is

an ancient land and that we are her children. Let us live with the true understanding that all of us belong to one country. Let us dedicate ourselves to the service of our country.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. What are the natural boundaries of India?
2. Mention the neighbouring countries of India.
3. How did the physical divisions affect our country's history?
4. What are the special features of the Indo-Gangetic plain?
5. What are the special features of Peninsular India?
6. What are the features of unity seen in our people?
7. What are the differences seen in our country?

II. Give short Answers

1. What are the two official languages of the Government of India?
2. In what continent does India lie?
3. What is the religion followed by the majority of the people of India?

III. Fill in the blanks

1. India is also named as————.
2. India is————times the area of the British Isles.
3. According to the census of 1971, the population of India is————millions.
4. Our Epics are————and————.

5. The most ancient religion of our country is ———.

6. Among the densely populated countries of the world, our country occupies a place next to ———.

IV. **Do it yourself**

1. On the outline map of India mark its natural boundaries, important mountains and rivers and natural divisions.

2. Sing in chorus the songs of Bharatiar such as 'Enthayum thayum', 'Bharatha Desamendru Peyar Solluvar' and 'Mannum Imayamalai'.

3. Take the national integration pledge on Flag hoisting occasions.

CHAPTER II

THE OLDEST INHABITANTS OF INDIA AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

Since the coming into existence of man on this earth, civilization has grown step by step. It has taken several thousand years for the primitive man to reach to-day's level of living.

In the beginning, human beings behaved like animals. They were wandering from place to place in search of food and shelter. They were uncivilised. The tools and weapons used by them and the things dug out from ancient cemeteries help us to know the history of the oldest inhabitants. Based on these discoveries, the age of the primitives can be classified as Stone age and Metal age. The Stone-age can further be classified as Old Stone Age and New Stone Age. Since people used instruments made of stone that age was called as the Stone Age. Later they discovered metals and used them. So this period came to be known as Metal Age.

Old Stone Age (35,000 B.C. to 10,000 B.C.)

The Old Stone Age human beings were uncivilised. They lived in caves and under the leafy branches of large trees. They hunted animals for food. They ate meat, fruits and roots. They did not know the use of fire. They were afraid of wild animals. To protect themselves from animals they

used weapons and tools made of flint. They did not know any language. They expressed their thoughts through signs. To protect themselves from cold they wore large leaves, barks of trees and skins of animals. They did not know farming, building houses and weaving cloth. They did not bury the dead. The Stone tools and weapons used by the people of this age were found in Royachutti in Cuddapa district, Badrachalam,

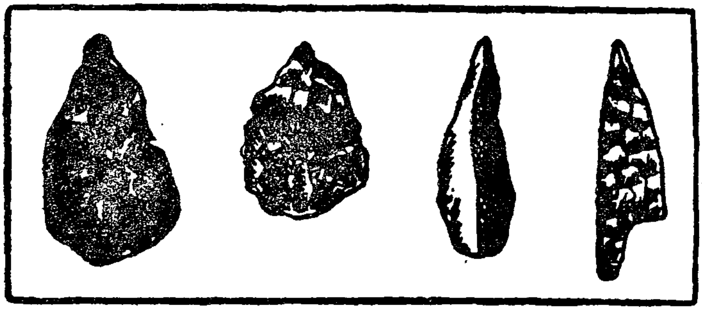


Fig. 3. Old Stone Age Implements

Shimoga in Karnataka, and Madurai and Chingleput districts in Tamil Nadu. They can be now seen in the museums.

New Stone Age (10,000 B.C. to 5,000 B.C.)

In course of time people improved their environmental knowledge. Living facilities increased. They learnt to make and use clay utensils. They learnt to make tools and instruments sharply, smoothly and beautifully. They made wooden handles for some of them. They kept and tamed animals like the dog, the sheep and the oxen. They cleared the deserts and converted them into grass lands for their animals. They learnt to cultivate lands and grow food. They

built huts and lived in them. They also painted pictures in the caves where they lived. Their nomadic life came to an end. They started to lead a settled life. They made boats by carving trees. They learnt to produce fire by striking stones or bamboos with each other. They cultivated cotton and wove cloth. They made ornaments out of bones and shells. They placed the dead in earthern urns and buried them in pits. They closed such pits with large stone blocks and planted small stones all around them. Such urns were discovered in the districts of Chingleput, Tirunelveli and Bellary. As agriculture advanced, such burial pits have disappeared in several places.

Metal Age (After 5,000 B.C.)

In man's cultural progress what is seen next, is the metal age. Men in this age used metals. The people of that age used copper first and iron thereafter. They learnt to melt these metals and they made tools and weapons out of them.

The people of the Metal Age lived a better life in all respects than men of the Stone Age.

The Descendants of the Oldest Inhabitants

The descendants of these oldest inhabitants are living even to-day in some parts of our country. The **Santals** in Bengal, **Mundas, Kolas** and **Gonds** in Orissa and the **Bhils** in Rajasthan, the **Todas,** the **Irulars,** the **Kurumbars** living in the mountain regions of the Nilgris are the descendants of the oldest inhabitants. They are still living in mountains, caves and forests because they think that rocks and trees are the abodes of Angels and Gods, worshipped

by them. Our Government is giving special concessions to them by way of education, housing, employment opportunity as well as financial help to improve their living conditions.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. What is the 'Stone Age'?
2. What is the 'Metal Age'?
3. Write five sentences about the life of the people in New Stone Age.
4. How was the life of the people of the Metal age better than life in the Stone Age?
5. Write short notes about the descendants of the oldest inhabitants who are living in our country to-day.

II. Pick out the best answer and indicate it in the brackets given

1. The descendants of the oldest inhabitants living in our country to-day are

   (A) Narikuravas (B) Santals
   (C) Dravidians (D) Aryans ( )

2. The people who made use of rough tools and weapons made of stones belonged to

   (A) The New Stone Age (B) Indus Valley Age
   (C) The Vedic Age (D) The Old Stone Age ( )

III. Do it yourself

1. Mark on the outline map of India the places where evidences of the Old Stone Age, New Stone Age and Metal Age are found.
2. Visit the nearby museum and take notes on the evidences of the Stone Age and the Metal Age.

INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Archaeological Discoveries

The river Sindhu makes the Punjab and Sind fertile. The archaeologists conducted a survey in the Indus valley from 1922 A.D. to 1928 A.D. As a result of this **excavation**[1] two ancient towns,

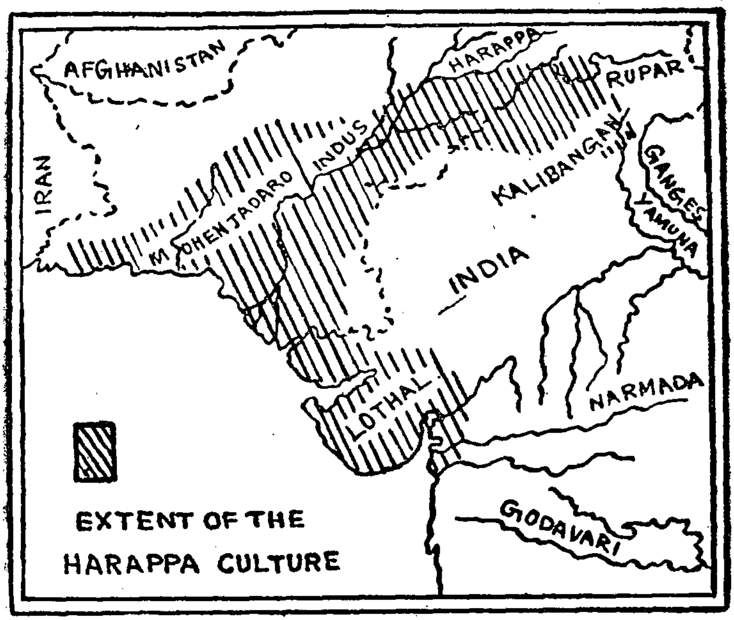


Fig. 4. Extent of the Harappa Culture

Mohenjo-daro and **Harappa** were discovered. Both the towns are now in Pakistan. 'Mohenjodaro' means 'Mound of the dead'. The survey conducted

[1] *Excavation* : Digging up the earth

in these two ancient cities clearly **indicates**[1] that a highly cultured people lived in these regions even before 5000 years. As the buried ancient cities are in the Indus Valley, it is called as Indus Valley Civilization.

In recent times, ruins of this civilization have been found in **Rupar** near Chandigarh, **Lothal** in the state of Gujarat and **Kalibangan** in Rajasthan. These ruins resemble those discovered in Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. Thus this civilization existed in the states of Sind, Baluchistan, East and West Punjab, West Rajasthan and Gujarat. The geographical extent of this culture can be seen on the map given hereunder. Modern scholars prefer to call the Indus Valley Civilisation as the 'Harappa Culture'.

This civilization seems to have existed about the same time when great civilizations flourished on the banks of the Nile, the Euphrates and the Tigres.

Date of the Civilization

The Indus Valley civilization was a chalcolithic culture, that is, the culture of an age when copper and stone were used. Archaeologists have therefore placed the period of the civilization between 3250 and 2750 B.C.

Social and Economic Conditions

People lived in towns. Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Lothal, Rupar and Kalibangan were well planned cities. The cities were built in two divisions, the lower and the upper parts. The dwelling houses

[1] *Indicates*: shows

were in the lower part. In the upper region, which lay on an elevated ground, worship halls, community halls, granaries and factories were located. The streets were broad and straight. Some of the streets were nearly 10 metres in width.

There were storeyed buildings built of bricks on either side of the street. There were many rooms in each house including a kitchen and a bath room. For proper ventilation, the houses were provided with doors and windows. There were wells to supply water. The house drainage pipes were connected with the closed cesspools in the street. Dust bins were kept in front of houses. There was a common drinking water supply scheme.

Among the discoveries in Mohenjodaro **The Great Bath** has been found. It is like one of our

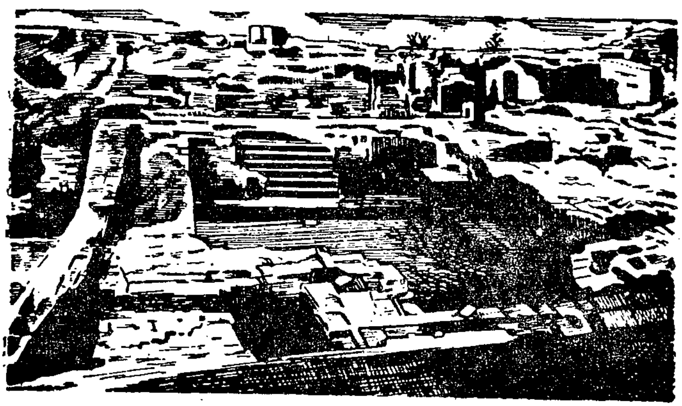


Fig. 5. The Great Bath

modern public swimming pools. This was kept for public use. There were a number of bath rooms around this. There was drainage system to drain the water in the 'Great Bath' The **Great Granary**

discovered in Harappa was used to store corn, to be distributed in times of need.

People cultivated lands and grew corn, wheat and barley. These grains, fish, meat and pork were their food. They reared elephants, pigs, buffaloes, dogs and oxen in their homes. It appears that the people of this period did not know anything about horses. They wore clothes of cotton and wool. They knew to dye cloth besides weaving. Men and women showed interest in wearing ornaments. They wore ear rings, necklaces and bangles made of gold and ivory. The Indus Valley people usually **cremated**[1] the dead bodies; occasionally there was burial.

Besides agriculture, the important occupations of the people were pot making, carpentry, ivory work, doll and toy making. They had no idea of iron and its use. They used bow, arrow, knife, spear, crow bar, slings and staff as weapons. They showed much interest in indoor games like dancing, gambling and playing chess. They traded with West Asia. Numerous seals of the Indus Valley have been found in Sumeria and Sumerian objects have been discovered in the Indus Valley.

Writing and Art

People of this age knew writing and reading. They had a kind of pictorial writings. Such pictorial writings are seen in the seals discovered in the Indus Valley. It is not yet clear to what language group such letters belong. The people must have been artistic. This is evident, from the figure of a dancing woman and the figure of a bearded man discovered in the Indus Valley.

---

[1] *Cremated*—Burnt to ashes.



Fig. 6. Seals with pictorial writings

Religion

Not much is known about the religion of the people of this age. There is no evidence to indicate the existence of temples in the Indus Valley and other places. But from the seals discovered, it is evident that they worshipped many deities. Their principal deity was 'Mother Goddess'. They also worshipped Lord Siva with horns on the head, doing penance in the midst of strange animals. This is the representation of Lord Siva as 'Pasupathy', Lord of Beasts. Linga worship, worship of trees, **sanctity**[1] of oxen and water and importance of bathing were the other features of their religious life.

Comparison with the Aryan Civilization

Harappa culture preceded the Aryan civilization and was superior to it. Harappa civilization was an urban civilization while the Aryan civilization was

[1] *Sanctity:* holiness.

rural in character. The Aryans used iron. People in the Indus Valley were not aware of iron. The Aryans used horses. No mention has been made about horses in the Harappan culture. People of the Indus Valley worshipped Siva and Sakthi. On the other hand the Aryans worshipped Nature deities like Indira, Varuna and Agni. The Aryans did not know the art of writing. The people of the Indus Valley had known pictorial writing. This superior culture was non-Aryan and pre-Aryan. Scholars think that the Indus Valley civilization might have been destroyed by flood, fire or **epidemic**[1] or invasion.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Describe the social conditions in Harappan culture.
2. Write five sentences about the religion of the people of the Indus Valley.
3. Give an account of the 'Great Bath'.
4. Contrast the Indus Valley Civilization with the Aryan Culture.

II. Give short answers

1. State two places from where evidences relating to the Harappa culture have been discovered.
2. State two of the occupations of the people of the Indus Valley.
3. What is meant by pictorial writing?

---

[1] *epidemic:* disease widespread among many people in the same place.

III. Mark 'True' or 'False' for the sentences given below in the brackets provided.

1. The Harappa culture existed from Sind to the Punjab and from Rajasthan to Gujarat. ( )
2. The 'Great bath' was found at Harappa. ( )
3. There was a great granary at Mohanjo-daro ( )
4. Harappa and Mohanjo-daro were unplanned cities( )
5. The houses in the Indus Valley were built with burnt bricks. ( )
6. Harappa culture was a rural culture ( )
7. Harappa culture can be said to be an advanced culture developed by the non-Aryans before the coming of the Aryans to our country. ( )

IV. Do it Yourself

1. On the outline map of India mark the extent of Harappa culture and the cities where evidences were discovered.
2. Visit a nearby archaeological museum, see the exhibits kept there and write your impressions on them.
3. Prepare the sketches of the seals and pictorial letters of the Harappa culture with the help of the teacher.

CHAPTER IV

DRAVIDIAN – ARYAN CIVILIZATION

Dravidian Civilization

There are different opinions regarding the origin of the Dravidians. Some historians say that they came from the Eastern Mediterranean countries and settled in India long before the coming of the Aryans to our country. Some others say that the birth place of the Dravidians was a large area of land called 'Lemuria', which existed in the Indian Ocean in very ancient times.

A third view is that the Dravidians were the oldest inhabitants of India. Whatever may be the opinion of the scholars, the fact was that when the Aryans came to India about 2000 B.C., they found the land occupied by the Dravidians. All scholars are also agreed that the Dravidians were a highly cultured people.

The Dravidians were short and black. They had black eyes, curly hair and good physique.

They lived in villages at first and in cities later. Their houses were built of bricks. They set up cities and fortresses around them.

There was no caste in Dravidian Society. The head of the society was the King. The King had an army, it consisted of chariots, elephants, infantry and cavalry. The Dravidians were good warriors and their chief weapons were bow, arrow, sword and spear.

The Dravidians classified the land where they lived into five groups. Hills and lands lying close to them were called 'Kurunchi'. Forests and places lying close to them were 'Mullai'. The plains and the fertile lands in them were known as 'Marutham'. Sea and coastal regions were called 'Neythal'. The land that lay in between the borders of 'Kurunchi' and 'Mullai' was called 'Palai'.

The chief occupation of the Dravidians was cultivation of lands. They built dams across rivers for irrigation. They knew weaving, making ornaments out of metals, pottery, carpentry and ivory work. They knew how to build boats and ships.

The Dravidians sailed in vessels and carried trade with foreign countries. They exported articles like pearls, peacock feathers, ivory, rice, cosmetics, fine variety of cotton cloth and teak, to countries like West Asia and Egypt.

The Dravidian language was the parent of Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada languages.

The Dravidians worshipped Siva, Sakthi, trees and snakes. They built temples and had idol worship. Like the ancient Egyptians they buried the dead with their dresses and ornaments; for they believed in life ofter death.

THE ARYANS

Original Home of the Aryans

The Aryans came and settled in India about 2000 B.C. There are different views regarding the original home of the Aryans. Our great National

leader Bala Gangadhar Tilak said that the Aryans came from the Arctic region. Others say that they came from Hungary or Central Europe. Professor Max Muller says that they at first lived in Central Asia. In course of time, their population increased. As a result they left Central Asia, went in groups to settle in parts of West Asia and Europe. One group settled in Iran and after a long time, a section migrated to India through the north—western passes and occupied the Punjab and Kashmir. The Aryans who came to India fought with the people who were living there, and defeated them. The Aryans called those who opposed them as 'Dasyus.' The Aryans settled at first, in the plains of the Punjab and migrated to the Gangetic plains later. The region where the Aryans settled is known as 'Aryavartham'.

Aryan Society

The Aryans were fair in colour. They were tall and strong. They lived in groups. The head of the family was the father. Right went from father to son. Women had a respectable place in society. The Aryans had no caste differences at first. The four major castes came into existence only at a later period when they expanded into the Gangetic valley. The classification was based on the occupations followed by the people. Later the classification was based on birth. Their **amusements**[1] were hunting, chariot race, fencing, dancing, music and playing dice.

The principal occupations of the Aryans were cultivation and rearing sheep and cattle. They knew handicrafts like weaving woollen clothes, tanning,

---

[1] ***amusements*** : Passing time Pleasantly.

carpentry and smithy. They made ornaments of gold and utensils of copper.

Milk, wheat, barley, vegetables, fruits and beef were their food. They drank honey and intoxicating drinks like soma, prepared from the soma plant and sura prepared from barley.

Aryan Literature–The Vedas and Brahmanas and Upanishads.

The Aryans, who settled in India worshipped the forces of nature like Indra, Varuna, Surya, Agni and Vayu. They worshipped deities like Brahma, Vishnu and Siva after settling in the Gangetic plains. The collections of hymns sung in praise of these deities are known as **Vedas**. The word 'Veda' means sacred knowledge. The four vedas are **Rig, Yajur, Sama** and **Atharvana. Veda Vyasar** edited these vedas. 'Brahmanas', 'Aranyakas' and 'Upanishads' were literary pieces written to explain the Vedas. The 'Ramayana' of Valmiki and the 'Mahabaratha' of Vyasa explain the Vedic truths in the form of stories. The Vedas and Vedic literature help us to understand the life of the Aryans in India.

Political Conditions

The Aryans lived in several isolated groups at first. Each group lived in a well marked region This region was known as 'Jana'. Each group had a leader. They called him 'Rajan'. It was the foremost duty of the king to protect his people from their enemies. There were two legislative bodies, one known as 'Samithi', House of the People and the other as 'Sabha', House of the Aged. They advised

the King now and then and controlled him. The King had an army Commander known as 'The Senani'

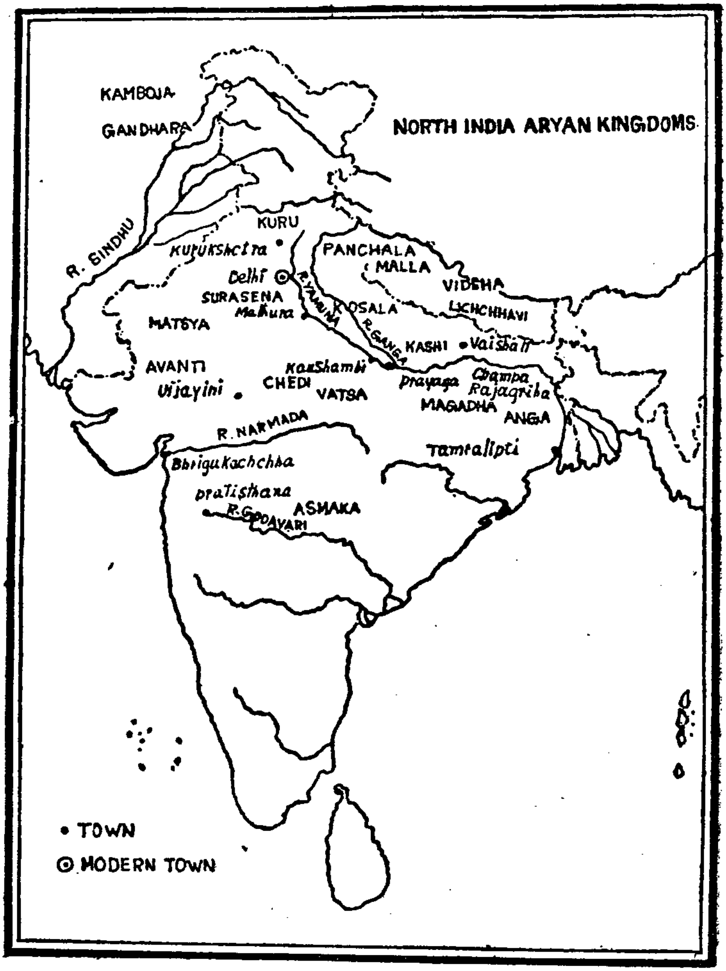


Fig. 7. North India Aryan Kingdoms

to help him. There was an officer known as 'Gramani' who looked after the village administration and

looked after the intersts of the people also. The King had spies to carry out secret activities and a Council of Ambassadors. Whenever Kings conquered new territories they performed 'Asvamedha Yaga' and 'Rajasuya Yaga' to celebrate their victories. They also assumed titles such as 'Ekrat' and 'Samrat'. Kosala, Kasi, Magadha, Videha and Panchala were some of the kingdoms founded by the Aryans.

Synthesis of Dravidian and Aryan Civilizations

The result of the Aryan invasion was that there was a fusion of the two cultures. The synthesis first took the form of racial mixture. This is shown by the fact that Rama, Krishna and Draupadai, the principal characters in the Epics were black in colour. The Vedic Gods were originally Nature Gods like Agni, Varuna and Indra. But after the Aryan contact with the Dravidians, the Vedic Gods came to occupy a minor place while Siva (taken from the Indus Valley people and the Dravidians) became the Chief Aryan God. The Aryans were at first nature worshippers but later became idol worshippers like the Dravidians. The Dravidians had no caste system; the Aryans too had no caste system in the beginning. But when there was a fusion of Aryan and Dravidian cultures, caste system came into existence in both the Aryan and Dravidian societies. Dravidian words in the Sanskrit language and Sanskrit words in Dravidian languages made their appearance as a result of the synthesis of the two cultures.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. What are the theories regarding the original home land of the Dravidians?
2. Explain the social life of the Dravidians.
3. Write five sentences about the origin of the Aryans.
4. Explain the social life of the Aryans.
5. Describe the political set up of the Aryans.
6. Write a note on the Vedas and the Vedic literature.
7. What were the results of the synthesis of the Aryan and the Dravidian cultures ?

II. Give Short answers

1. Write the names of the five different types of land among the Dravidians.
2. Write the names of the four languages derived from the Dravidian language.
3. What is the name given to the place where the Aryans settled in Northern India ?
4. Mention the names of the four Vedas.

III. Do it yourself

1. On the map of North India, mark the following Aryan Kingdoms.

   (a) Panchalam (b) Magadha

   (c) Kosala (d) Videha

2. Read the epics 'Ramayana' and 'Mahabharatha'.

CHAPTER V

THE RISE OF JAINISM AND BUDDHISM - THE KINGDOM OF MAGADHA

The sixth century B.C. was an important period in the history of India. During this period when great philosophers like Confucius of China and Zoraster of Persia lived, the Buddha and Mahavira were born in our country. They made several changes in our religious faith.

Causes for the Rise of Jainism and Buddhism

People did not get mental peace from the Vedic religion. Rituals, Yagas and animal sacrifices increased in the Vedic religion. They were beyond the means of an ordinary man. The influence of the Brahmins in society increased. People did not like the Brahmin supremacy. As all the rituals were performed in Sanskrit, people could not understand their meaning. They desired to have the rituals in the spoken language. Thus Jainism and Buddhism arose as a protest against ritualism, Brahmanism and animalism. The two religions had more or less the same principles. These two religions were founded by Kshathriya princes, who gave up their royal family life and became ascetics.

JAINISM

Vardhamana Mahavira and his Teachings

Vardhamana Mahavira was the founder of Jainism. In the sixth century B.C. he was born in a Kshatriya family in the Kingdom of Vaisâli. He. who was leading a family life, wanted to find out solutions for difficult problems like birth, death and salvation. He became an ascetic in his thirtieth year. He did meditation and penance for twelve long years. Later he came to know the truth. As he conquered his five senses and became enlightened,he was called 'Jina' or 'conqueror' or 'Mahavir'. Those who followed him, were called Nirkandars. 'Nirkandar' means one who has severed all worldly connections. In course of time, they became Jinars or Jains. This religion began in the kingdom of Magadha. Later it spread throughout the country. Among the kings, who supported it, **Kun Pandyan, Mahendra Varma Pallava** and **Kharavela of Kalinga** were important.



Fig. 8 . Mahavira

After the death of Mahavira, the Jains were divided into two groups as **Digambaras** and **Svetambaras**. The Jains were great scholars. They have made a great contribution to the Tamil language. Among them Thiruthakkadevar, who wrote the immortal classic 'Jeevaka Chintamani' and Pavanandi,

the author of 'Nannool', are the most important. Naladiyar was also a Jain work.

The teachings of Mahavira are as follows : Pleasure and pain which one experiences in this birth come as a result of Karma. Moksha simply means freedom from birth and rebirth. To obtain Moksha, one should follow the principles of Right Faith, Right Knowledge and Right Conduct. These three are known as **Triratna**. Right Faith is firm belief in the **omniscience**[1] or **infallibility** of Mahavira. Right Knowledge is that the soul can obtain Moksha only after the exhaustion of Karma. Right Conduct is a strict life with the principle of Ahimsa. The Jain sacred book composed later was called the **Anga.**

BUDDHISM

Gautama Buddha and His Teachings

The founder of Buddhism was Siddhartha, the prince of the Kingdom of Sakya. He was later known as Gautama Buddha. He was born at Kapilavatsu, the capital of the Kingdom of Sakya. He lost his mother, when he was very young. He was brought-up in such a way that he could not know what pain and sorrow were. He married the princess Yasodhara. They had a handsome son. He did not like the pomp of a royal family.

One day he came across an old man and a sick man in the city. He also saw a dead body being carried. He wanted to know the real cause for all the miseries in life. He gave up worldly life abandoning his wife

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[1] *omniscience :* Knowing eveything.
infallibility : Cannot go wrong, always right.

and son and became an ascetic. He wandered for several years, but he could not find any solution. One day when he was sitting under a Bodhi tree in Gaya, he became enlightened. Since then Siddhartha came to be called as the **'Buddha'**. 'The Buddha' means the 'Enlightened one'. He was also called Gautama and the Sage of Sakya.



Fig. 9 Buddha

The teachings of the Buddha are as follows :

Desire is the root cause of all misery. If desire is destroyed, misery can be avoided. By following the Eight Fold Path of Right Faith, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindedness and Right Meditation, one can destroy desire. Kindness must be shown to all living beings and they should not be harmed. We only reap in this life what we had sowed in the the previous life. This is the doctorine of Karma. To obtain Nirvana or Moksha one has to follow the **Eight Fold Path.**

The Sacred Books of Buddhism are the **Tripitakas**. The Pitakas were written in Pali in the third century B.C.

The principles of Buddhism attracted all people. This religion was supported by kings like Asoka,

Kaniska and Harsha. Although it is a world religion a neglible minority follows it in our country where it had its birth. The reason for Buddhism not flourishing in our country, is the renaissance of Hinduism.

These two religions, which were born in the sixth century B.C., effected many changes. Local languages assumed importance. The supremacy of Sanskrit declined. Jain and Buddhist stupas and monasteries were established in places like Gaya, Pataliputra, Kapilavatsu, Rajagriha, Sanchi and Saranath. The cave paintings of Ajantha, Ellora and Elephanta are immortal evidences of those two religions.

THE KINGDOM OF MAGADHA

In the sixth century B.C., there were 16 Kingdoms in North India. They are known as **Maha Jana Padas**. Many of them were ruled by Kings and a few were republics.

During the later part of the sixth century B.C., Magadha rose to importance. This Kingdom was, at first ruled by the Kings of the **Sisunaga dynasty**. The most important Kings of the Sisunaga Dynasty were **Bimbisara** and **Ajatasatru**. Bimbisara's capital was Rajagriha. By his skill, he brought Kosala, Vatsa and Anga under his rule. Both Mahavira and the Buddha were spreading the principles of their religions during his rule. It is believed that he was killed by his own son Ajatha Sathru.

Ajatha Sathru brought some more Kingdoms under his rule. Both the Jains and Buddhists considered Ajathasathru as their friend. Among the succes-

sors of Ajatha Sathru, **Udayan** is worth mentioning. He built the city of Pataliputra at the meeting place of the Son with the Ganges. This became the famous capital of Magadha replacing Rajagriha.

After the downfall of the Sisunaga dynasty, **the Nandas** came to power. The most famous of the Nanda Kings was **Mahapadmananda.** He and his eight sons are called the Navanandas. He added Kalinga to Magadha. He established a great empire in North India. The Nanda Empire was the first historical empire in India. The last ruler of the Nanda Dynasty was **Danananda**. He ruled like a tyrant. People hated him. This dissatisfaction paved the way for the rise of Chandragupta who overthrew the Nandas and established Mauryan rule over Magadha.

Foreign Invasion during the rule of the Sisunagas and Nandas



Fig. 10 Alexander

During the rule of Bimbisara of the Sisunaga dynasty, the Persian **King Darius I** invaded India and conquered Sind and the Punjab. The two provinces formed a satrapy of the Persian Empire. Persian rule lasted in India for some time.

Under the rule of the last of the Nandas, the Greek King, Alexander the Great invaded India (326 B.C.).

In the North West of India, particularly in the Punjab, there was no unity among the rulers. **Ambi,** King of Taxila submitted to Alexander. But **Porus,** King of the Punjab, resisted Alexander on the banks of the Jhelum. But he was defeated. Alexander advanced to the Beas and then returned to Greece. On the way, at Babylon, he died in 323 B.C.

Exercies

I. Give detailed answers

1. Account for the rise of Jainism and Buddhism.
2. What are the teachings of Jainism ?
3. What are the teachings of Buddhism ?
4. Describe briefly the rule of Sisunaga dynasfy.
5. Give an account of the Persian and Greek invasions.

II. Give short answers

1. What are the two divisions among the Jains?
2. Who were the Kings of India, who supported Jainism?
3. What was the original name of the Buddha?
4. Where did the Buddha become the Enlightened one?
5. Name the Pre-Mauryan dynasties which ruled Magadha.
6. Who built the city of Pataliputra?
7. Who was the last King of the Nanda Dynasty ?
8. Who was the Indian King who resisted Alexander?

III. Do it yourself

1. Mark the Kingdoms of North India in the 6th century B.C. on the outline map of India.
2. Collect pictures of the Buddha and Mahavira and paste them in your picture album.

CHAPTER VI

THE MAURYAN EMPIRE

CHANDRAGUPTA MAURYA (B.C. 325–301)

Chandragupta was the founder of the Mauryan Dynasty. His mother's name was Mura. Hence the dynasty which he founded was called the Mauryan Dynasty. Another view is that Chandragupta belonged to the Moriya tribe near Pataliputra and hence the dynasty which he founded was known as 'Maurya'.

The last Nanda king Danananda was a tyrant. He expelled his minister Chanakya from Magadha. During his reign Alexander the Great invaded the Punjab. After the departure of Alexander, confusion prevailed in India. In the confusion that prevailed, Chandragupta fought with the Greek Generals left behind by Alexander and wiped out foreign rule from the Punjab and Sind. Then with the help of Chanakya he overthrew Danananda, the last of the Nandas and made himself the King of Magadha (B.C. 325). In B.C. 305 **Seleucus Nicator**, one of the generals of Alexander, invaded India to recover the lost Greek provinces. He was defeated by Chandragupta. A treaty was signed by both of them. Chandragupta got Trans-Indus region, Kabul, Herat and Baluchistan.

Seleucus sent **Megasthenes** as an Ambassador to Pataliputra. This Ambassador noted what he had seen and heard in India in the book entitled '*Indica*'. He has given a description of the Pataliputra Municipal Administration in the 'Indica'.

Chanakya who was also known as **Kautilya** and **Vishnu gupta** became the Chief Minister of Chandra gupta Maurya. He helped him to rule well. He wrote his famous book **Arthasastra.** He has explained in that book salient features of Mauryan administration. It is a book on Polity and it is a book for all times.

Pataliputra was the capital of the Mauryan rulers. It was built at the confluence of the Ganges and the Son rivers. To-day it is known as Patna. This was a well planned city. The streets were broad. There were beautiful gardens and ponds all around the palace. There were bazaars. The bazaars were surrounded by houses where people lived. There were fortresses and deep moats all around the city. The administration of this city was a shining example of a good municipal administration. 30 members divided into 6 committees of five each administered the city.

In the course of his twenty four years' rule Chandragupta established his supremacy over the entire north India, and territories beyond India. He had the welfare of his people at heart and he ruled his kingdom well. The establishment of the Mauryan Emprire was an important event in Indian History. It was Chandragupta who freed the country from foreign agression and brought unity among the people. He helped the political integration of India.

BINDUSARA (B.C. 301 – 273)

After the death of Chandragupta, his son Bindusara became the ruler. He conquered the Deccan minus Kalinga. He continued the contact established by his father with foreign countries.

Chanakya continued to serve him also as Chief Minister.

ASOKA (B.C. 273 – 232)

Kalinga War : Asoka became the ruler after Bindusara. Among the Maurya Rulers who ruled Magadha, Asoka was the greatest. He ruled his kingdom very well for forty years from B.C. 273 to 232. In B.C. 261 he invaded the Kalinga kingdom. After a fierce battle he conquered that kingdom. This Kalinga war was a turning point in his life. The dead bodies which lay piled up like a huge mountain and the blood which ran like a river made him realize the horrors of war. He vowed not to wage anymore war. He decided to conquer by love instead of by force. His great kingdom included the major part of India excluding Tamilnadu and Assam, but included trans-Indus regions and Nepal.



Fig. 11. Asoka The Great

Asoka and Buddhism : After the war with Kalinga,Asoka embraced Buddhism. He lived according to the principles preached by the Buddha and set up an example for his people to follow. He sent

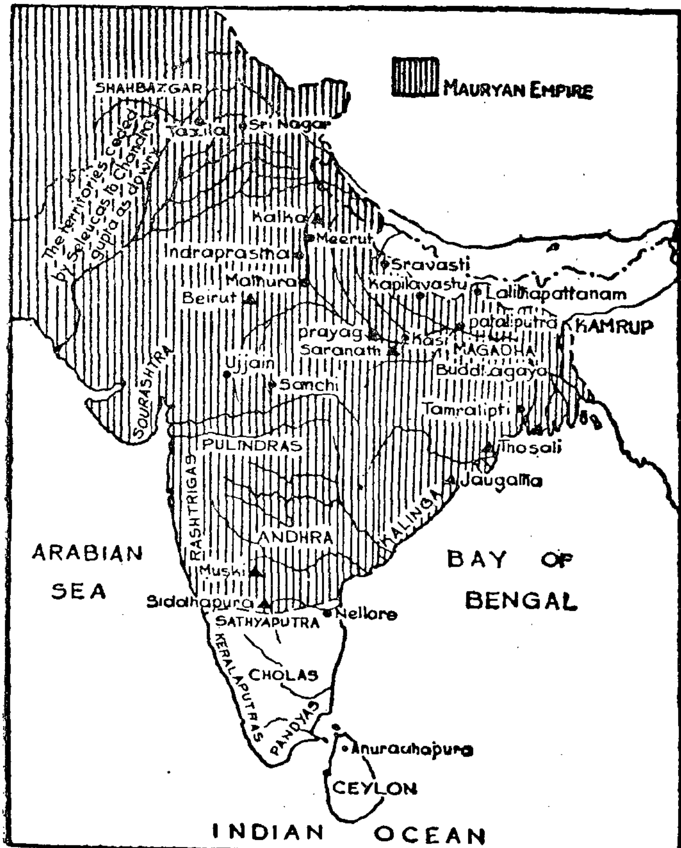


Fig. 12. Asoka's Empire

Buddhist monks as missionaries to Egypt, Syria, Macedonia and other places. His son Mahendra and daughter Sangamitra went to Sri Lanka and preached the principles of Buddhism. He further appointed officers

known as Dharmamahamatras and Dharmayuktas to spread Buddhism within his Empire. As a memorial to the Buddha he erected Stupas and constructed monasteries for the Buddhist monks to reside. He summoned a Buddhist council at Pataliputra and defined the principles of Buddhism. He carved the principles of Buddhism on stone pillars, rocks and walls of caves. Thus Asoka played a great role in spreading Buddhism. He helped to make it a world Religion.

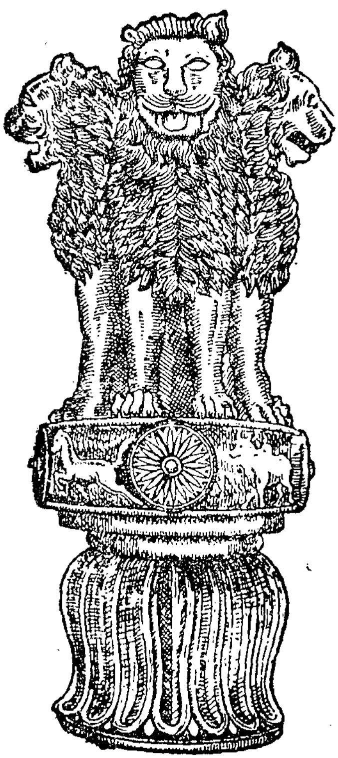


Fig. 13. Saranath Pillar

Edicts of Asoka : Asoka carved his edicts on stone pillars, rocks and walls of caves. They have a great historic value. We can see them in different parts of our country. From them we can understand the extent of Asoka's Empire, his ideals, administration and the condition of his people. In the edicts, we can see Asoka named as 'Devanampriya' and 'Priyadarsan'. 'Devana'-mpriya' means one who enjoys the goodwill of God. 'Priyadarsan' means one who has a kind look. The stone pillars containing the edicts of Asoka can be seen in places like Delhi, Allahabad, Sanchi and Saranath. The Saranath Lion Pillar is our National Emblem.

The caves with such edicts can also be seen in the hills of Barabar near Gaya and in the districts like Jaipur, Jabalpur, Hyderabad and Kurnool. These edicts are seen in the Brahmi script which could be easily understood by people then.



Fig. 14. Edicts of Asoka

The Greatness of Asoka : Asoka followed the Buddhist Dharma. He asked his people to follow the righteous path of honesty, dharma, humility, gratitude, affection, mercy and non-violence. Asoka lived up to the principles which he preached. He educated his people and removed their ignorance. He promoted cultivation by providing irrigation facilities. He worked for the welfare of his people. He planted shady trees on either side of roads. He constructed choultries. He prohibited hunting and killing of animals. He constructed hospitals for animals.

MAURYAN ADMINISTRATION

'The Arthasastra' of Kautilya, 'The Indica' of Magasthenes, the inscriptions of Asoka and the 'Mudra Rakshasa' of Visakhadatta, all give details of the Mauryan Administration.

Central government: The King was the administrative head. Affairs such as making laws, carrying on administration and administering justice were looked after by the King himself. The King ruled the country keeping the welfare of the people at heart. He believed that the happiness of the King consisted in the happiness of the people. The King had a Council of Ministers to help him. This Council was known as 'Mantri Parishat'. The foremost duty of a King was to safeguard the country from foreign aggression and to maintain internal peace and security. The Mauryan Kings had a permanent army consisting of infantry, cavalry, chariots and elephants. The spy system was well maintained.

The principal income was land revenue. One sixth of the produce was collected as land revenue. Taxes for irrigation, on imports and on industry were also collected. This revenue was spent for the promotion of the welfare of the people. To administer justice there were courts. Only wise and scholarly people were appointed as judges. The King himself was the Chief Justice. Severe punishments were given for crimes.

Provincial Administration: The Mauryan empire was divided into several provinces.

'Adhyakshas' for big provinces and 'Rajukas' for small provinces were appointed to rule as the representative of the Emperor. The provinces were further divided into districts. To administer the districts, officers known as 'Pradesikas' were appointed. The districts were looked after by 'Sthanikas'. The commissioners known as 'Gobars' administered the villages.

Municipal Administration: The most excellent feature of Mauryan rule was the municipal administration. The administration of Pataliputra, the capital of the Mauryan Empire was an excellent example of municipal administration. To look after the administration of the city there was an officer known as 'Nagaraka' Besides him there was a city council consisting of thirty members. This council had six divisions. Each division had 5 members. These divisions looked after the welfare of the workers and the foreigners, registration of births and deaths, trade, checking of weights and measures and collection of sales tax. The Municipal administration of Pataliputra shone like the modern city administration.

Downfall of the Mauryan Empire

After Asoka, the Mauryan Empire began to decline. There are several causes for it. Some scholars think that owing to the principle of 'Ahimsa' (Non-violence) followed by Asoka, the army of Asoka lost its skill in warfare and the people their valour. Others point out other causes for the decline of the Mauryan Empire. The rulers who came after Asoka were weak. As the vast empire was spread

out extensively, many of the provinces could not be administered well. The provinces one after another, began to sever their ties with the central administration. As the capital was not centrally located, the efficiency of the administration suffered. At a time when the country was in a state of confusion, **Pushyamitra Sunga,** commander-in-Chief of **Brihadratha**, the last ruler of the Maurya Dynasty, killed the Mauryan King. Thus the Maurya dynasty came to an end in B.C. 188.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Write a brief note on Seleucus?
2. What were the services rendered by Asoka to Buddhism?
3. Describe the Mauryan Administration.
4. Explain the city administration of Pataliputra.
5. What do you understand from the edicts of Asoka?
6. What are the causes for the downfall of the Mauryan empire?

II. Write short answers

1. Who was the founder of the Mauryan Dynasty?
2. Who helped Chandragupta to become the King of Magadha?
3. Who was the Greek Commander that fought with Chandragupta?
4. Who was the ambassador of Seleucus in the court of Chandragupta Maurya?
5. What were the other names of Chanakya?
6. What war made Asoka give up war for ever.
7. State two places where stone pillars carrying Asoka's edicts are seen to-day.

III. Fill in the blanks

1. Two important books which enable us to know about the Mauryan rule are———— and————.
2. The Chief Minister of Chandragupta Maurya was————.
3. ————was the son of Asoka who went to Ceylon to preach Buddhism.
4. Asoka appointed officers known as————to spread Buddhism within his Empire.
5. Our national emblem has been taken from Asoka's Pillar at————.

IV. Do it yourself

1. Mark on the outline map of India, Asoka's empire and the important cities in it.
2. Enact a play on 'Asoka's change of heart'.
3. Draw the Dharma Chakra seen in the middle of our national flag and our national symbol of the Saranath Lion Pillar.

CHAPTER VII

ANCIENT TAMIL KINGDOMS

South India is the peninsular area lying below the river Krishna. People in this region had been living with a splendid culture from very ancient times. There are many evidences for this. 'The Arthasastra'

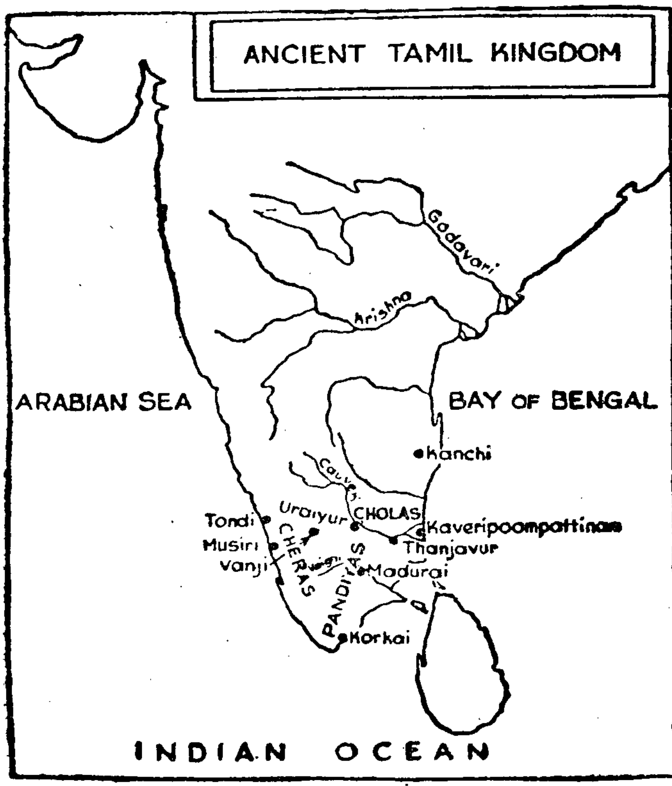


Fig. 15. Ancient Tamil Kingdoms

of Chanakya and the 'The Indica' of Megasthenes indicate the Pandyan rule. The inscriptions of Asoka throw much light on the greatness of the Tamil rulers. The Sangam literature is also an important source for the history of the ancient Tamils.

Tamil Kingdoms

Among the kingdoms established in South India, the **Chera,** the **Chola** and the **Pandya** kingdoms are the important ones. As Tamil was spoken in these kingdoms the area came to be known as **Tamilagam.** This land of the Tamils extended from Thirumalai Thirupathy or Vengadam in the North to Kanya-kumari in the South.

CHOLA KINGDOM

The Chola Kingdom consisted of the present districts of Thiruchirapalli, Thanjavur and South Arcot. The river Cauvery which runs through them made the Chola Kingdom very fertile. Hence there was a saying 'Chola Nadu choru udaithu', which means that the Chola Nadu was abundant with food grains. Uraiyur which is near Tiruchirappalli was the capital of the Cholas. Their port was Kaveripoom-pattinam or Poompukar. The Cholas had the tiger as their emblem in their flag.

Karikal Cholan

Among the ancient Chola Kings **Karikal Chola** was very famous. It is said that he lived during the first century A.D. As his legs were burnt when enemies set fire to his residence where he was sleeping, he came to be called as Karikalar. Some

believed that he came to be known as Karikalar as he proved himself to be 'Kalan' or 'Yama' to the 'Kari' or elephants.

Karikala was a great warrior. He became ruler even when he was very young. He defeated the Cheras and the Pandyas at **Venniparanthalai**, a place 25 miles east of Tanjore. He invaded Ceylon and conquered it. He thus expanded his Kingdom. Karikala changed capital from Uraiyur to Kaveri-poompattinam.

Karikala destroyed the forests and improved irrigation. He brought under cultivation many waste lands. He made his kingdom very fertile. He became popular as 'Karikal Peruvalathan'. He raised the banks of the Cauvery. He built the grand irrigation dam called 'Kallanai'.

Karikala patronised scholars. Many poets adorned the court of Karikala. Among them special mention must be made of 'Mudathamakkanniar' and 'Uruthirangkannanar'. Mudathamakkanniar in his 'Porunaratrupadai' and Uruthirangkannanar in his 'Pattinapalai' have written about the greatness of Karikala.

During the period of Karikala maritime trade flourished. Fine arts like music and dance gained popularity.

Unfortunately after Karikala, the rulers who succeeded him were not able and strong. In addition to this, the rise of Pandyas in the South and the Pallavas in the North resulted in the downfall of the Chola Kingdom.

CHERA KINGDOM

The Chera Kingdom consisted of Kerala and the present districts of Salem and Coimbatore. The capital of the Cheras was VANCHI. Thondi and Musiri were their Ports. The Chera flags bore the bow symbol.

Cheran Chenguttuvan

The most famous among the Chera Kings was **Cheran Chenguttuvan.** He lived during the Second Century A.D. Being a great warrior, he defeated the Chola and the Pandya Kings and brought them under his rule. He marched upto the Himalayas and defeated many rulers in the North. His victories in the north are described in the great Tamil epic 'The Silappathikaram'. This book was written by the Saint Elango. Elango was the younger brother of Chenguttuvan. Paranar and Seethalai Sathanar, the poets of the Tamil Sangam are believed to have adorned the court of Chenguttuvan.

Chenguttuvan had a fleet. With this, he crushed the pirates* and promoted sea trade. Because of these, the poets praised him as 'Kadal Pirakkottiya Vel Kezhu Kuttuvan', which means 'one who cleared the sea of the pirates'.

Chenguttuvan brought a stone from the Himalayas for making a statue of Kannagi. He then had the stone bathed in the holy Ganges and built a temple for her. Gayavaghu I, the King of Sri Lanka attended the consecretion* ceremony.

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* Pirates Sea-robbers.

Consecration-Holy Ceremony to start a temple or renew a temple.

PANDYA KINGDOM

The Pandya Kingdom consisted of the present districts of Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thirunelveli and Kanyakumari. The rivers Vaigai and Porunai run through these regions. Madurai, on the banks of the Vaigai was their capital. Korkai was the port of the Pandya Kingdom. Pearls were exported from this port. Mahakavi Bharathi has sung in praise of this. The flag of the Pandyas bore the fish symbol.

Pandyan Nedunchezhian

Nedunchezhian, the first and **Nedunchezhian, the second** were the most important among the Pandya Kings. Nedunchezhian, the first is mentioned in the Tamil epic 'Silappathikaram'. Nedunchezhian, the second was a great and reputed ruler known to history.

He became King when he was very young. The rulers of the Chera, Chola and five petty states jointly attacked the Pandya Kingdom. The heroic Nedunchezhian collected a big army, defeated them at **Thalaiyalanganam,** a place in Thanjavur District. Thus he got the title 'Thalaiyalanganathu Cheruvendra' which means one who gained a great victory at Thalaiyalanganam. His greatness is described in the literary pieces like 'Purananooru, 'Agananooru', 'Kurunthogai' and 'Natrinai'.

Nedunchezhian had great faith in Hinduism. He supported the poets and patronised scholars. He helped the growth of the last Tamil Sangam which existed at Madurai. Poets like Kalladanar, Sathanar, Bharanar,

Mangudi Marudhanar and Nakkirar adorned his court. It is believed that he ruled during the latter part of the Second Century A.D. The Pandyan Kingdom began to decline during the third century A.D.

THE CIVILIZATION OF THE ANCIENT TAMILS

The Sangam literature is the main source for the history of the ancient Tamils. Almost all the people in Tamilnadu are of Dravidian origin. It is believed that the Tamils lived many years before the Indus valley Civilization period.

The early Tamils divided their land into five natural regions as Kurunchi, Mullai, Marudam, Neithal and Palai. The living standard of the people varied according to their dwelling place. They had well ventilated houses. The rich people had separate houses suitable to different climatic conditions. The people had varieties of food suited to their facilities. The wealthy people took rice, milk, ghee, vegetables and fruits whereas the poor had to be content with food prepared from the hand pounded rice or husks and green vegetables. Later, due to the influence of the Jains and the Buddhists, efforts were made to avoid meat. The Tamils were noted for their hospitality. Women occupied a respectable position in society. Women worshipped their husbands as God. Both men and women wore simple clothes suitable to weather conditions.

The Tamils carried on maritime trade. This is described in the Sangam literature and in the accounts

written by the Roman writers Strabo, Plini and Ptolemy. It is understood that the ancient Tamil nadu had trade connections with Rome to a great extent. Coconuts, pepper, teak, ivory, pearls, sandal wood and cotton cloths were exported. Things like lead, glass, liquor and horses were imported.

Education was imparted to the youths. Fine arts like music, dance and drama were promoted. The 'Bhanar' took a major share in promoting such fine arts. All the fine arts were practised during deity worship. Festivals for Indra and Lord Muruga were celebrated. Later temples were built with stones for different God s.

Monarchy prevailed in the ancient Tamilnadu. The ruling rights were hereditary. Councils like 'Aymperum Kuzhu' (Five great councils) and 'Enperayam' assisted the King. Courts of Justice existed in the name of Mandram, Avayam or Pothiyil. Persons noted for education, knowledge and character acted as judges. They conducted trials and disposed of cases. Punishments were not severe for even the serious crimes.

For efficient administration the Kingdom was divided into Mandalam, Vala Nadu, Nadu and Kottam. There was self-rule in villages. To look after the welfare of the village, there was a village council. It was responsible for tax collection, education and health. The council also maintained the village tanks and roads.

The Kings were, in general, fond of hunting. They realised their duties to the people. They consi-

dered delivering impartial justice and protecting the people, as their sacred duty. The Kings had profound knowledge and were efficient in administration. They promoted education. They respected the poets and moved closely with them. The poets served as Guides and ambassadors to Kings. The Kings formed 'Poets circles' and promoted the study of Tamil. In the Third Tamil Sangam established at Madurai there were great poets like Nakkirar, Irayanar, Kabilar and Sathanar. It was through the Tamil Sangam that literary pieces like 'Patthu Pattu', 'Ettu Thokai' and 'Pathinen Kizh Kanakku' came to be written. These books describe the glorious civilization of the early Tamils.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Explain the greatness of Karikal Chola.
2. What was the greatness of Cheran Chenguttuvan ?
3. Describe the greatness of Pandyan Nedunchezhian.
4. Describe the culture of the early Tamils.

II. Give short answers

1. What were the Capitals of the three Tamil Kings ?
2. Name the ports of the three Tamil Rulers.
3. What book did Sage Elango write ?
4. What were the emblems on the flags of the three Tamil Kings ?
5. Who was the King of Ceylon during Cheran Chenguttuvan's rule ?

III. Match the items in (a) with the items given in (b).

(A)

	(a)	(b)	
1.	Poompuhar	Port of the Pandyas	( )
2.	Vanchimanagar	Port of the Cholas	( )
3.	Korkai	Capital of Pandyas	( )
4.	Musiri	Capital of Cholas	( )
5.	Uraiyur	Capital of Cheras	( )
		Port of Cheras	( )

(B)

	(a)	(b)	
1.	Uruthirangkannanar	King of Ceylon	( )
2.	Nedunchezhian	Author of Pattinapalai	( )
3.	Chenguttuvan	Chola King	( )
4.	Sage Elango	Chera Eing	( )
5.	Mudathamakkanniar	Pandya King	
6.	Kayavagu	Author of Silappathigaram	( )
		Author of Porunaratruppadai	

IV. Do it yourself

1. Mark on the outline map of Tamilnadu the Kingdoms of Chera, Chola and Pandya, their Capitals and their Ports.
2. Draw the flags of the three Tamil rulers.

CHAPTER VIII

THE KUSHANAS AND THE SATAVAHANAS

Kushanas (First two centuries of the Christian Era)

The Kushana period has a great importance in the History of Indian culture. During this period Christianity met full grown Buddhism. After the Mauryas, India was brought into close contact with the outside world. The Kushana period was a fitting prelude to the Gupta period. The period witnessed important developments in religion, literature and sculpture, for instance the rise of Mahayana Buddhism and Gandhara Art.

The Kushanas were a section of the **yuch-chi** race. They were nomads who lived on the borders of Modern China. They came into conflict with Mongols and were defeated. They moved westward. They entered India through the North Western passes and settled down in the north-western regions of India.

Kadphises I, was the first Kushana King about whom we know something definite. He made himself the master of Gandhara and Kabul territory Kadphises I, was succeeded by his son **Kadphises II.** It is said Kadphises II completed the conquest of northern India which was started by his father. Coins issued by these rulers throw much light on their rule.

Kanishka (78–120 A.D.)

Kanishka was the greatest of the Kushana emperors. He was the founder of the Saka era which started in 78 A.D. He ascended the throne in 78 A.D.

Kanishka's Conquests : When Kanishka came to the throne, his Kingdom consisted of Afghanistan, a large part of Sindh, portions of Parthia, Bactria and the Punjab. Kanishka was confident of his military strength and annexed Kashmir. He erected in Kashmir a large number of monuments and also founded a town called Kanishkapuram.

Kanishka waged war against the ruler of Magadha and captured Pataliputra. He brought Aswaghosha, the great Buddhist philosopher who adorned his court. He defeated the Saka ruler and annexed a portion of Malwa. Kanishka conquered Kashgar, Yarkand and Khotan by defeating the Chinese. His empire extended from the Caspian Sea in the west to the Yamuna and the Ganges in the East and from Central Asia in the north to the Vindhyas in the South.

Kanishka ruled over his vast empire from his capital at Peshawar or Purushapuram. This was the most central place from his empire.

Mahayana Buddhism

Kanishka at first worshipped a large number of Gods. Later he gave up his old religion and became a Buddhist. He was tolerant towards other religions. Like Asoka he did a lot for the spread of Buddhism.

Many old monasteries were repaired and many new ones were built. A large number of stupas were set

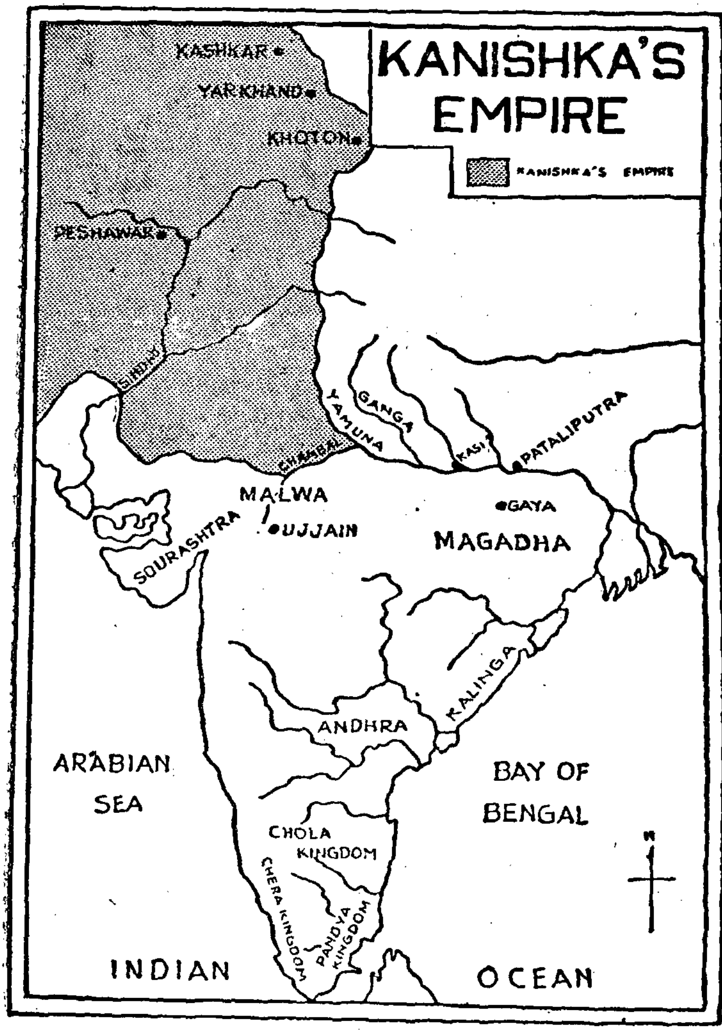


Fig. 16. Kanishka's Empire

up in memory of the Buddha. Buddhism spread to China, Japan, Tibet and Central Asia.

During Kanishka's reign, Buddhism underwent a great change. In Kanishka's time the old **Hinayana** form of Buddhism was replaced by a new form known as **Mahayana**. Formerly the Buddha was worshipped by symbols but under Mahayanism he came to be worshipped in human form. Mahayana Buddhism respected various other holy persons and saints called the Boddhisattvas. Temples were built and festivals were conducted. These brought Buddhism nearer Hinduism. Mahayana also used Sanskrit for its scriptures as in Hinduism. **Aswagosha** and **Nagarjuna** were Mahayana Buddhist scholars.

Art and Literature

Kanishka was a great patron of art and literature. The greatest literary figure of Kanishka's Court was Aswaghosha. He was the author of 'Buddhacharita'. Another great figure in the court of Kanishka was Nagarjuna. He was a Mahayana philosopher and his great work was 'Madhyamika Sutra'. Vasumitra was another great figure. He was the author of 'Mahavibhasha'. Another important figure was Charaka. He was the author of a book on medicine. Susrutta, another important figure, wrote a book on surgery.

Kanishka was a great builder. His important buildings and works of art are found in Peshawar, Mathura, Kanishkapura and Taxila. Contact with Western Asia brought Greek sculpture to North India. Indian artists were influenced by this Greek sculpture. It gave birth to a new school of sculpture. The new type of art came to be called **Gandhara Art**, which was Greek art with Indian subjects. It was a

mixture of Greek and Indian technique in sculpture. This art was very popular not only in areas such as the modern Punjab and Kashmir but also in Modern Afghanistan.

Trade

Trade was brisk under Kanishka. Inland and foreign trade flourished. Trade with foreign countries especially with the Roman Empire was carried by sea and land routes.

Fall of the Kushana Empire

Huvishka succeeded Kanishka. **Vasudeva** succeeded Huvishka. The Kushana empire became weak in his days. The rulers who followed him were weak and inefficient. Most of the Indian territories were lost to Indian chiefs. Besides this, the Sassanian power in Iran gave a severe blow to the declining strength of the Kushanas.

The Satavahanas or the Andhras
(225 B.C.–220 A.D.)

The Andhras were an ancient people occupying the Telugu country between the Godavari and the Krishna in the Deccan. They were a Dravidian people. The Satavahana empire was a bridge between North India and South India.

Simuka was the founder of the Satavahana dynasty and he came to power in 225 B.C. Simuka built both Jain and Buddhist temples.

After Simuka the most famous King was Sri **Satakarni**. His capital was Prathistan or Paithan

on the Godavari. Under him the Andhra Empire consisted of Andhra, Berar, Maharashtra, East Malwa and Gujarat.

The Sakas of West India considered the rise of Satavahanas to be a great challenge to their existence. So there were frequent conflicts between the Satavahanas and the Western Kshatrapas. Once the Saka rulers defeated the Satavahanas. **Gautami Putra Satakarni**, an important King of the Satavahana dynasty reestablished the glory of the Satavahanas. He defeated the Saka-rulers and regained the lost territory. He was the greatest of the Andhra Kings. After him **Vashistaputra Pulumayi**, **Yajnasri Satakarni** and many more ruled the Satavahana empire.

After the Satavahanas, the **Itchuvaku dynasty** came to power. But by the fourth century A.D., the Pallavas became powerful in the South. The Andhra power declined.

Exercises

I. Write detailed answers

1. Why is Kaniska regardded as a great king?
2. Point out the differences between Hinayana and Mahayana form of Buddhism.
3. Describe 'Gandhara Art'.
4. Write a note on the Andhras.

II. Write short answers

1. What was the Capital of Kanishka?
2. Name any two great scholars who were in Kanishka's court.

3. Who was the founder of Satavahana dynasty ?
4. Name any two Kings of the Satavahana dynasty ?

III. Fill in the blanks with correct words

1. The Kushanas were a clan from————.
2. ————was the founder of the Saka era, which started from————A. D.
3. Kanishka founded a town————.
4. Gandhara art was influenced by————style.
5. Charaka wrote a book on————and Susrutta on——.

IV. Do it Yourself

1. Mark the extent of Kanishka's empire on an outline map of India and also mark Purushapura, Kashgar, Yarkand and Khotan.
2. Collect pictures of Kushana coins, buildings, stupas etc. and paste them in your album.

CHAPTER IX

THE GUPTA EMPIRE

(300 – 500 A.D.)

After the fall of the Mauryan empire, foreign tribes attacked the North Western parts of India. The Kushanas were the most important of them. After the fall of the Kushan dynasty there was no strong King to keep order. There were some small Kingdoms which were quarrelling with one another. Order and peace were brought again into the country at the beginning of the 4th century A.D. by the Gupta dynasty in Magadha. The rule of the Gupta dynasty lasted for more than 200 years. We do not know much about the origin of the Guptas. It is said that a humble man named Sri Gupta founded a small Kingdom near Pataliputra. The kingdom founded by him became very powerful and extended over a greater part of North India. Among the Kings of the Gupta dynasty **Chandragupta I, Samudra gupta** and **Chandragupta II** are important. A lot of information for the history of the Guptas is to be found in the coins of the Guptas, in addition to the Chinese pilgrim Fahien's account and Allahabad Pillar Inscription of Harisena, the Commander-in-Chief of Samudragupta.

Chandragupta I (320—330 A.D.)

The first important King of the Gupta dynasty was Chandragupta. He came to the throne in about 320 A.D. He made himself master of Pataliputra and the districts around it. In this he was assisted by his

wife **Kumaradevi**, a Licchavi princess. His Kingdom included Allahabad, Oudh and South Bihar. As a result of his conquests he acquired the title 'Maharajadiraja' or King of Kings. He started in 320 A.D., a new era known as the Gupta era. He could not rule for a long time. In about 330 A.D. he died and his brave son, Samudragupta succeeded him.

Samudragupta (330—380 A.D.)

Samudragupta was an eminent ruler of the Gupta dynasty. We know much about Samudra gupta from the Allahabad Pillar inscription. This was engraved by his Commander-in-Chief Harisena. Coins issued by Samudragupta also provide ample evidence about his rule.

While Asoka stood for peace and non-violence, Samudragupta stood for war and conquest. He conquered many Kingdoms and brought them under his rule. The Kingdoms of the Gangetic Plain were annexed by him. He fought against a number of Kings in the Deccan and South India. Not even once was this great emperor defeated. On completion of his triumphant march to the South as far as Kanchi, he performed the 'Aswamedha' sacrifice. He is compared to the military genius, Napoleon of France. He did not annex the South Indian territories to his Empire. Samudragupta was not only a warrior but also a patron of art and learning. He believed in Hinduism but he was kind to people of other religions also.

Chandragupta II (380 - 415 A.D.)

After Samudragupta, his son Chandragupta II came to the throne. He was also a great warrior like

his father. He took the title of 'Vikramaditya' (Sun of valour). He overthrew the Sakas of Western India and annexed Malwa and Gujarat to his Kingdom. He was called 'Sakari' because he defeated the Sakas. He

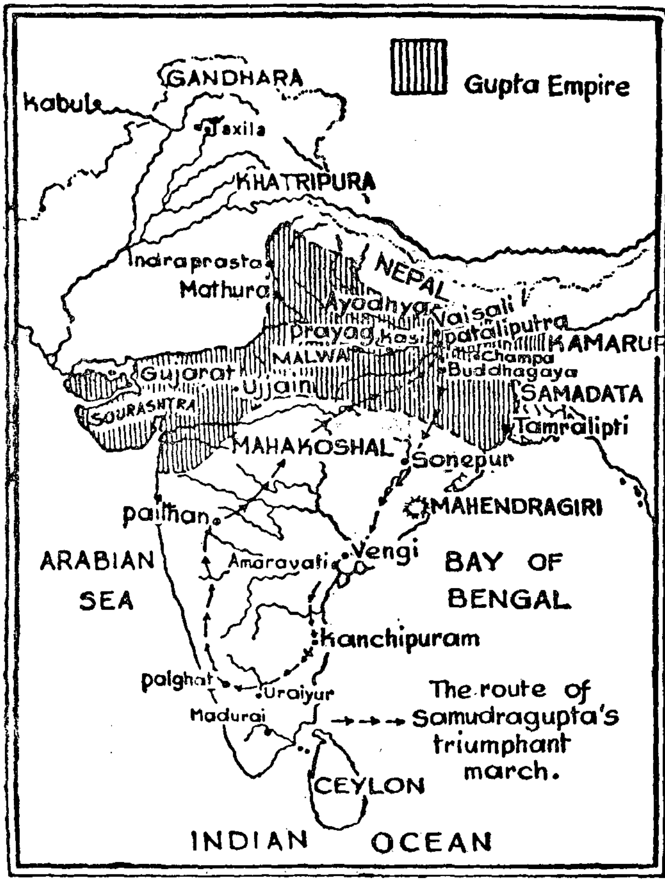


Fig. 17. **Gupta Empire**

maintained friendly relations with the Kings of the Deccan by marriage alliances. The most important marriage alliance was that between his daughter and the Vakataka prince. He made Ujjain in Malwa his second capital.

Chandragupta II is best remembered for his patronage of learning and the arts. Nine learned men known as the 'Nine Gems' adorned his court. Chandra gupta II took pride in having in his court some of the wisest and most learned men of the country. They included the famous poet **Kalidasa** and the physician **Danvanthri.**

Fahien's Visit : It was during the reign of Chandragupta II, that a Chinese pilgrim, **Fahien** came from China to India. He came to India to visit the holy places of Buddhism and to collect the Buddhist scriptures and take them to China. He spent a few years in Pataliputra. He also visited many places. He has left an account of what he saw in this country. We come to know a great deal of the country during the Gupta rule from his account· According to Fahien, people led a peaceful life; punishments were light; death penalty was unknown. The Buddhist way of life was generally followed though Hinduism was flourishing. The people did not kill any living creature nor drink **intoxicating**[1] drinks. The moral conduct of the people was good.

Fall of the Gupta empire

After Chandragupta II, his son **Kumara gupta** succeeded. After the death of Kumara Gupta, **Skandagupta** came to the throne. During his reign, a wild race from Central Asia known as the **Huns** invaded India. Skanda Gupta drove them back. Their continued attacks weakened the Gupta Empire. The Later Guptas who were weak rulers made

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1. *to lose self control as a result of taking drink.*

many vain attempts to hold the empire together and it broke up into several smaller Kingoms.

The Golden Age of the Guptas

The Gupta period was in many respects an age of achievements. Literature, science and arts reached the highest level. India was unified by a single culture and Indian culture spread to countries overseas. The Gupta Kings maintained peace and order in the country. This had resulted in economic prosperity. There was great progress in inland and overseas trade. This period is usually referred to as 'the Golden age of the Guptas'. Let us now examine the various aspects of advancement.

Administration : There was political unity in the empire. This was achieved by the wise rule of the Gupta Kings. Their administiation was efficient. The administrative set up was more or less like that of the Mauryas. The revenue was mainly from land tax which amounted to one sixth of the produce. Excise duties were also levied. There was greater freedom for the people under the Guptas than under Mauryas. People lived in peace and happiness. They were law abiding and honest. The laws were mild and punishments were not severe.

Social and Economic conditions : Society was divided into castes. They lived in harmony. The position of women was good. A fairly high standard of living prevailed. People were very happy. As there was peace, there was economic prosperity. Inland trade increased. Trade was also carried on with the countries of South East Asia, such as Burma, Java and

Combodia and also with Central Asia and Rome. Broach and Sopra were the main ports on the west coast from where ships set sail to foreign countries.

Religion: Hinduism became a powerful religion. Under the Guptas there was the Hindu Renaissance. Many of the older books such as the Maha Bharata' and the 'Ramayana' were rearranged and rewritten in their present form. They came to be treated as religious literature. The Gods of the Puranas and the Epics became more and more popular. Sacrifiies lost their importance. The worship of Siva, Vishnu and Subramanya gained importance. Sakthi and Lakshmi worship also became popular. The Guptas were Hindus, specially devoted to Vishnu. Though they were ardent Hindus, they were tolerant towards people of other religions.

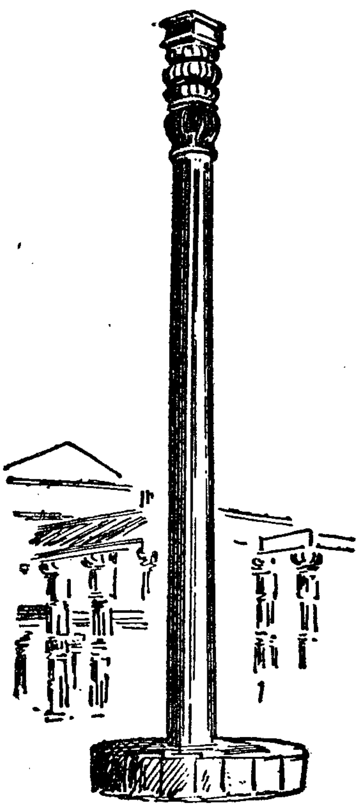


Fig. 18. Iron Pillar

Art and Architecture: During the Gupta period, Indian art, architecture and painting reached a very high standard. The Guptas used bricks instead of stones for building temples. The Dasavatara temple near

Jhansi, the Siva temple at Bhumara are some of the most beautiful temples of the Guptas. Metal work improved much in this age. The **Iron Pillar** at Delhi which to this day stands polished and unrusted is a fine example of the Indians' knowledge of metallurgy. Use of copper and bronze for casting figures of Gods and Goddesses reached a high degree of perfection. The bronze statue of the Buddha in Nalanda is a good proof of the fine metal work of the age. Paintings of the Guptas were excellent. These paintings are to be found in the Ajanta caves in the Western ghats. Some of the paintings at the Ajanta caves depict the life of the Buddha.



Fig. 19.
Ajanta Painting

Literature and Science: The Guptas encouraged poets. There was great development of Sanskrit. There were the 'Nine Gems' in the Court of the Guptas. The greatest among the 'Navaratnas' or 'Nine Gems' was **Kalidasa.** His most important works were 'Sa kuntala', 'Meghaduta' 'Kumara sambhava', 'Vikramorvasia', 'Ritusamhara', 'Malavikagnimitra' and 'Raghuvamsa'. The world famous 'Panchatantra' was compiled during this period. **Sudraka** wrote 'Mrichchakatika'. **Visakadatta** wrote 'Mudra rakshasam'. **Amara simha** compiled a sanskrit dictionary called 'Amarakosha'. In addition to these literary works, the puranic stories like 'Vayu Purana', 'Matsya'

Purana', and 'Vishnu Purana' were all written during this Golden Age.

The Gupta period recorded great progress in the field of science also. Mathematicians like **Aryabhatta** developed arithmetic, algebra and trigonometry. **Varahamihira** and **Vagbhatta** wrote books on astronomy and geography. Aryabhatta explained that the earth moves round the sun. Indian mathematicians used the decimal system and knew the use of zero.

Owing to the above all round progress, the Gupta age, is called as the 'Golden Age of Ancient India'.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Give an account of Samudra Gupta's conquests.
2. Who was Sakari and why was he so called ?
3. Why did Fahien come to India ? What do you know from his accounts ?
4. Describe the Golden age of the Guptas.

II. Write short answers

1. Who was the founder of the Gupta Dynasty ?
2. Who were the three most famous emperors of the Gupta dynasty ?
3. When did the Gupta era begin ?
4. Who was known as the Indian Napoleon ?
5. Who was the most famous of the Navaratnas?
6. What was the Second Capital of the Guptas ?
7. Name any four literary books of the Gupta period.
8. Name the Chinese traveller who visited India during the Gupta period.
9. Who were the Huns ?

III. Match the authors with their books

	Authors	Books	
1.	Kalidasa	Mrichchakatiga	( )
2.	Sudraka	Mudrarakshasam	( )
3.	Amarasimha	Kumarasambhava	( )
4.	Visakadatta	Panchatantra	( )
		Amarakosha	( )

IV. Do it yourself

1. On an outline map of India mark the extent of the Gupta empire, the route of the digvijaya of Samudra gupta, Pataliputra, Prayag, Ujjain, Nalanda, Malwa and Gujarat.
2. Dramatise scenes from 'Sakunthala'.

CHAPTER X

HARSHA (606 - 647 A.D.)

The Gupta empire lasted for over 200 years. The Huns destroyed the Gupta empire. **Toramana,** the Hunnish Chief set up a Kingdom in Northern and Central India. His son **Mihirakula** followed his father and ruled for about 30 years. He ruled so cruelly that there were risings against the Huns. Several smaller Kingdoms arose in Northern India. One among them was the Thaneswar kingdom ruled by the Vardhanas. This kingdom rose to great power and played an important role in the History of India in the 7th century A.D.

How Harsha became the King of Thaneswar and Kanauj

About the beginning of the seventh century A.D. **Prabhakaravardhana** founded a small kingdom with its capital at Thaneswar. He was a powerful ruler, who had checked the Huns. He had two sons **Rajyavardhana** and **Harshavardhana** and a daughter **Rajyasri**. He died in 605 A.D. His eldest son Rajyavardhana came to the throne.

Rajyavardhana's sister Rajyasri was married to the King of Kanauj, **Grahavarman.** The King of Malwa attacked Kanauj, killed Grahavarman and took Rajyasri as his prisoner. Rajyavardhana immediately started with his troops to attack the Malwa King. He defeated the Malwa army. But he

was killed by **Sasanka**, the King of Bengal and the ally of the Malwa king. Rajyasri escaped from prison and took refuge in the Vindhya forests.

Harshavardhana came to the throne of Thaneswar in 606 as his brother Rajyavardhana had no child. His immediate task was to rescue his sister. He defeated the king of Malwa. He was able to trace out his sister with the help of a Buddhist monk. Harsha was just in time to save his sister when she was about to throw herself on fire out of great sorrow and despair. Rajyasri requested Harsha to undertake the rulership of Kanauj. So the kingdoms of Thaneswar and Kanauj became one under Harsha. Harsha then shifted his capital from Thaneswar to Kanauj.

Harsha's Conquests

The first thing Harsha did was to conquer more territories. For six years he carried on wars and conquered Gujarat, and Bengal. He won many battles and his empire extended from the Sutlej in the west to Bengal in the East. He made himself the master of the whole Northern India. It was slightly bigger than the empire of Chandragupta Vikramaditya.

Harsha wanted to conquer the South. He invaded the Deccan in about 620 A.D. He was stopped by the army of **Puleikesin II**, the western Chalukya King. Harsha was defeated on the banks of the Narmadha. Therefore the Narmadha became the southern limit of his empire.

Harsha's Administration

The government of Harsha was very efficient. The king himself supervised all the departments of the

government. The whole country was divided into provinces, districts and villages. Taxes were light.

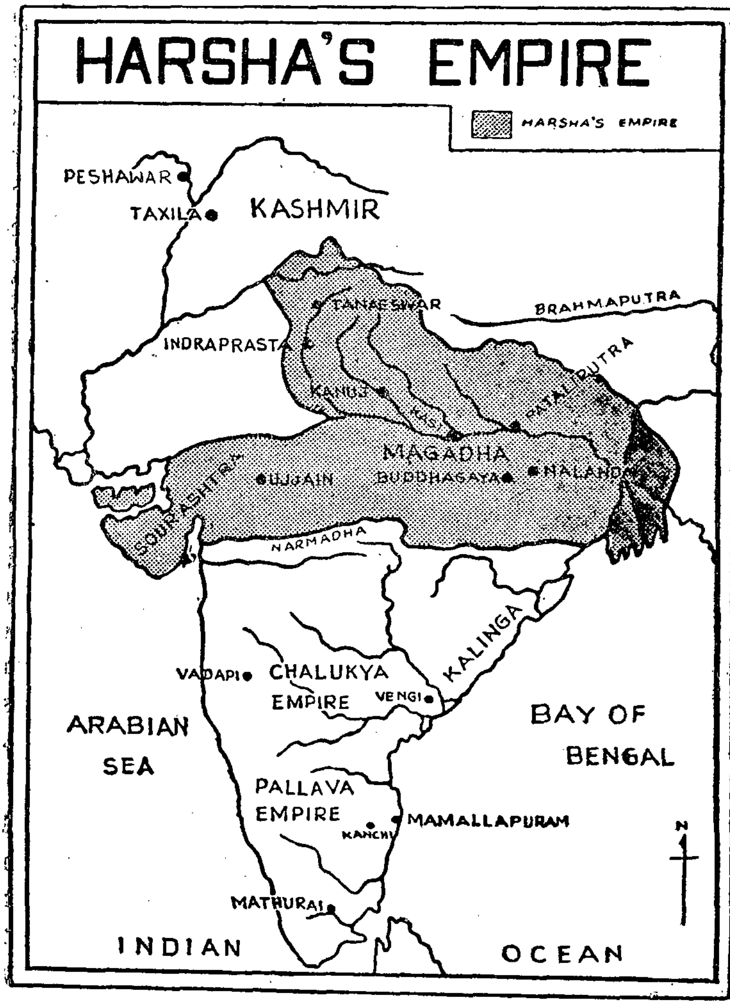


Fig. 20. Harsha's Empire

Land revenue was one sixth of the produce. The army was well organised. Punishments were severe. Priso

ners were released on joyous and festive occasions. Roads were not so safe as during the Gupta period. Rest houses were built for travellers. Free hospitals and Dharmasalas were provided for the people.

Harsha's Religion

In the beginning Harsha was a follower of Hinduism. Later on he was inclined towards Buddhism. In fact he respected all the religions and worshipped the Buddha, Siva and the Sun. During his reign Buddhism began to decline and Hinduism began to flourish. Harsha held a fair at Prayag (modern Allahabad) every five years and on the last day of the fair he shared all his wealth among the poor and the religious leaders.

Harsha's Patronage of Learning

Harsha is remembered even to-day for his patronage of learning. He was a great poet and dramatist. He wrote the three famous dramas in Sanskrit - 'Ratnavali', 'Nagananda' and 'Priya-dharshika'. He had in his court some of the greatest writers of the day like **Bana** who wrote'Harshacharita' and 'Kadambari'. Bana was his court poet.

The Nalanda University: The Nalanda University founded by Kumaragupta was at the height of its fame in the days of Harsha. The University was international in character. Many students from Buddhist foreign countries like Japan, South East-Asia and China studied there. The students were given free boarding and lodging, clothing and medicine. There were about 10,000 students and 1,500 teachers. The university had one of the finest libraries

in the world. Sanskrit was the medium of instruction. Buddhist and Vedic religions, logic, philosophy, law, Science, Medicine and fine arts were some of the subjects taught. The graduates and the teachers of this university were honoured all over Asia. Dharmapala of Kanchi was head of the University, during Harsha's reign. He was succeeded by Shilabadra of-Assam. Hieun Tsang came to Nalanda when Shila badra was the Vice Chancellor.

The Visit of Hieun Tsang

Hieun Tsang was a Chinese pilgrim, like Fahien. He was a learned scholar of Buddhism. He came to India to visit Buddhist holy places and collect the scriptures and relics of Buddhism. He spent many years visiting several centres in India, including Nalanda University. He became a good friend of Harsha and stayed in his court for some years. He recorded his observations and experiences in his book called **Siyuki**. It gives us a fund of information about Harsha's great qualities, his conquests, his religion, his administration and many more things. Harsha organised an Assembly at Kanauj to honour Hieun Tsang.



Fig. 21. Hieun Tsang

Fall of Vardhanas

Harsha was the last great Hindu King of Northern India. After his death, confusion prevailed in Northern India. His kingdom split into many smaller units which were fighting with one another.

Exercises

I. Write detailed answers

1. How did Harsha become the King of Thaneswar and Kanauj ?
2. Why did Hieun Tsang visit India ?
3. Write a note on Nalanda University.
4. Describe the administration of Harsha.

II. Write short answers

1. Who defeated Harsha ?
2. Mention any two dramas written by Harsha.
3. Who wrote Harshacharita ?
4. Who was the Vice-Chancellor of the Nalanda University at the time of Hieun Tsang's visit ?

III. Choose the best answer and note it in the brackets :

1. Hieun Tsang will be remembered in Indian History because of his ( )
   (a) good knowledge of Sanskrit
   (b) stay at Nalanda.
   (c) account of Harsha's reign
   (d) practising Buddhism.

IV. Do it yourself

1. Mark the extent of Harsha's Empire on the outline map of India.
2. Dramatise the meeting of Harsha and Rajyasree.

CHAPTER XI

THE BHAKTI MOVEMENT IN SOUTH INDIA - NAYANMARS, ALWARS AND ACHARYAS

South India had always been receptive to religious ideas. During the last Sangam Age, both Jainism and Buddhism spread in South India. These religions influenced the literature and culture of the people. The oldest Hindu religion and religious practices suffered a set back. Hinduism which was considered as a way of life, had to be saved from its decline. Its lost prestige and popularity had to be regained. Inspired religious men started taking steps to revive Hinduism. The **Alwars** and **Nayanmars** tried to restore Hinduism its importance and prestige by their devotional songs and pious lives. They sang their devotional songs in Tamil. These songs were very popular and exercised a great influence on the common people. This uprising is usually referred to as the Bhakti cult (Devotional movement) in South India. This began in the 7th century A.D.

Like the Alwars and Nayanmars, other great religious thinkers and teachers like **Sankara**, **Ramanuja** and **Madhwa** appeared from time to time and their preachings gave a serious blow to Buddhism. They reestablished Hinduism with new life.

The Nayanmars

The Nayanmars were devotees of Lord Siva. They were sixty three in number. They included people

from all walks of life. The chief among them are **Appar, Sundarar, Sambandar** and **Manicka vasagar**. These four are known as 'Saiva samaya kuravar nalwar'. Karaikkal Ammaiyar, Nandanar and Siruthondar were also noted for their devotion. The activities and services of all the Nayanmars are described by **Sekizhar** in his book 'Periya puranam'.

The devotional songs of Appar, Sundarar and Sambandar are together known as 'Thevaram' which was collected by **Nambiyandar nambi**. The collection of Manickavasagar's songs is known as 'Thiruvasagam'. Thiruvasagam is a class by itself. It is said, "If you are not moved by Thiruvasagam, you will not be moved by any other vasagam." These works are the scriptures of the Saivites. The devotional songs of Nayanmars are set to music and are sung in the temples even today.

The Alwars

The Alwars were devotees of Lord Vishnu. They were twelve in number. The famous among them are **Perialwar, Nammalwar** and **Andal**. The Alwars emphasised that great devotion to God is the best means of attaining salvation. The Alwars had sung many devotional songs. They were collected together by **Nathamuni** and the collection is known as 'Nalayira Dhivya Prabhandham' Besides this, Andal's 'Thiruppavai' Nammalwar's 'Thiruvaimozhi' and Perialwar's 'Thiru pallandu' are considered as Vaishnava devotional literature.

The Alwars and Nayanmars travelled from place to place and by their devotional songs and discourses reestablished the greatness of the Hindu religion. They

wielded great influence with the rulers and with their patronage they served mankind. Service to mankind became a part of their religion. Thus the old Hindu religion regained its influence.

The three great Acharyas

Sankara: Sankara was born at Kaladi in Kerala in 788 A.D. He was born in a poor family. He lost his father when he was a child. He began his study at the age of five and he learnt all the Vedas and Upanishads by the age of sixteen. He became an ascetic and travelled all over the country teaching about the greatness of Hinduism. His philosophy is known as **Advaitham.** He said that God, the Paramathma and man, the Jeevathma are one and that the Jeevathma after attaining moksha becomes one with the Paramathma. This complete union can take place only through knowledge of (Gnana marga) and devotion to (Bhakti marga) God.



Fig. 22. Sankara

Sankara was the first person to give a definite shape to Hinduism. He collected and classified the Hindu thoughts. He wrote a commentary on the 'Brahma Sutras' and the 'Upanishads.' This commentary is known as 'Sankara Bhasyam'. He established mutths in different parts of our country. He died when he was 32 years old.

Ramanuja: Ramanuja was born in the Eleventh century A.D. in Sriperumbudur in Chingleput district. He was the disciple of Yadavaprakasa, a great scholar in Kancheepuram. He was married and later became an ascetic. He resided in Thiruvarangam and began to spread the Vaishnavite religion in many places. The Saivite Chola King gave him trouble and Ramanuja shifted his activities to Mysore, where he was patronised by a Vaishnavite King. He travelled all over India, preaching Vaishnavite religion. He passed away at a very ripe age.



Fig. 23. Ramanuja

The Philosophy of Ramanuja is known as **Visishtadvaitam.** He preached that Jeevathma is only a part of Paramathma. Man should submit himself to God and do service not only to Him but also to human beings. By doing service with devotion, one can attain Mukthi or Salvation. Ramanuja emphasised on self-surrender to God. Mahathma Gandhi considered him to be the first Hindu social Reformer because he declared that the Vedas were not intended for a particular community, but could be learnt by all castes.

Madhwa: Madhwa was born in Udipi in South Kanara. He lived in the Sixteenth century A.D. He

wrote commentaries on the 'Brahmasutras' and 'Gita'. He travelled widely and established many mutts for preaching religion. The chief of them is at Udipi. He built a temple at Udipi for Lord Krishna and spent his time in preaching his Philosophy. His philosophy is known as **'Dvaitham'** He said that 'Jeevathma and Paramathma are two separate things. The Jeevathma can attain salvation by doing service to the Paramathma. Even if man attains salvation he does not become one with God.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Write five sentences about the Bhakti movement in South India?
2. What are the teachings of Sankara?
3. Describe the teachings of Ramanuja.
4. Write a few sentences about Dvaitham.
5. What services did the Nayanmars render to Hinduism?
6. Write short notes on
   (a) Thevaram.
   (b) Nalayira Divya Prabhandham.
   (c) Samaya Kuravar Nalwar.
   (d) Andal.
   (e) Thiruvasagam.

II. Give short answers

1. Where was Sankara born?
2. Mention the birth place of Ramanujn.
3. Where was Madhwa born?
4. Who is the author of 'Periya puranam'?

III. Fill in the blanks

1. Thevaram was edited by————
2. The collection of Manicka vasagar's devotional songs is known as————.
3. The collection of devotional songs of Alwars is known as————.
4. Andal's ———— and Nammalwar's ———— are considered as great vaihnavite devotional literature.

IV. Do it yourself

1. Practise singing devotional songs from Thevaram, Thiruppavai and Thiruvaimozhi.
2. Collect pictures of the Alwars, Nayanmars and the Acharyas and paste them in your album.

CHAPTER XII

THE PALLAVAS, THE CHALUKYAS AND THE RASHTRAKUTAS

Introduction

We have studied already that after the downfall of the Mauryan Empire, the Satavahanas or the Andhras ruled the Deccan. On the decline of the Satavahana Empire, the Deccan and South India came to be ruled by the Pallavas, the Chalukyas and the Rashtrakutas. We shall now study about these three ruling dynasties.

THE PALLAVAS

The region watered by the Palar and South Pennar rivers was ruled by the Pallavas from the 3rd century A.D. The capital of the Pallava Kingdom was Kancheepuram or Kanchi.

Important Kings : The first important Pallava King, **Sivaskandavarman** is said to have ruled in Kanchi, in the first half of the 3rd century A.D. The next important king among the early Pallavas was **Vishnugopa** who opposed Samudragupta in his Southern digvijaya. The next-important Pallava, **Simhavishnu** ruled towards the end of the Sixth Century A.D. Many able kings succeeded him. Among them, **Mahendravarman I** and **Narasimhavarman** I were the most famous.

Mahendravarman I (600 - 630 A.D.)

On the death of Simhavishnu, his son Mahendravarman I, succeeded to the throne in Kanchi. At that time, the Western Chalukyas of Vatapi were powerful. A battle was fought, in which the Chalukya King, Pulakesin II defeated Mahendravarman. Though Mahendravarman was able to save Kanchi, he had to lose a part of his Kingdom to the Chalukya King. However he successfully waged a war against the Chola King and captured Tiruchirapalli.

Mahendravarman I spent the rest of his days in the peaceful administration of his kingdom. He was at first a Jain. Later he adopted Saivism, under the influence of Appar alias Thirunavukarasu Nayanar, one of the most famous of the Nayanmars. He was a great builder, poet and musician. He was a patron of arts. His rock-cut cave temples in places like Tiruchirapalli, Vallam and Mahendravadi are shining examples of his encouragement of arts. He encouraged painting. The cave paintings at Sittannavasal belong to his reign. He founded the town Mahendravadi where he built a lake, which exists even to-day. This lake was used for irrigation.

Narasimhavarman I (630 A.D. - 655 A.D.)

After the death of Mahendravarman, his son, Narasimhavarman I ascended the throne. He was the most famous King of the Pallava dynasty. He defeated the Chalukya King Pulakesin II in 642 A.D. and captured his capital Vatapi. He was therefore called 'Vatapi Konda Narasimhavarman' which means the hero, who conquered Vatapi. He was also called 'Mamalla' or the strong wrestler.

Narasimhavarman had a strong navy and with that he restored his friend Manavarman to the Sinhalese throne.

Like his father, he was also a great builder and lover of arts. He developed a port which had been there already and made it a cultural centre. The port came to be called after him as Mamallapuram. It is about 50 kilometres from Madras. Narasimhavarman engaged sculptors to build rock-cut temples at Mamallapuram known as the 'Rathas' These Rathas had been named after the five Pandavas.

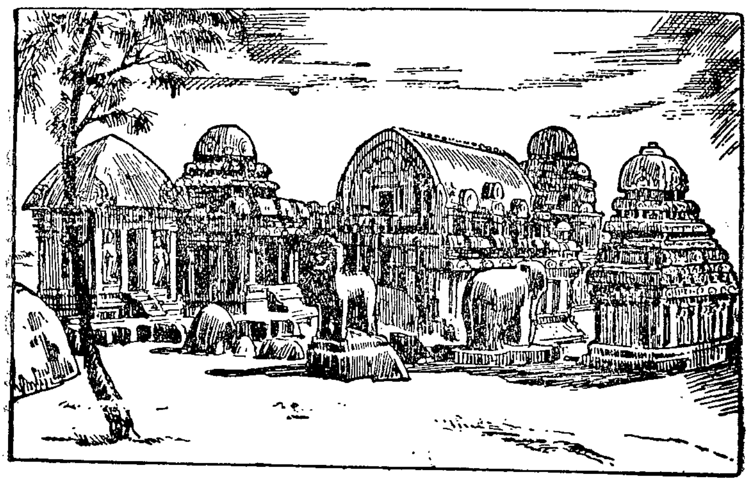


Fig. 24. Rathas of Mamallapuram

Narasimhavarman was also responsible for stone relief compositions. 'Arjuna's Penance' is the most remarkable one. Several other temples were built by him, at Mamallapuram and Kancheepuram, the then famous centre for Sanskrit learning and research. These great art treasures of our country are world famous.

The Chinese pilgrim Hieun Tsang visited Kanchi during Narasimhavarman's rule and stayed there for some time. In his book 'Siyuki', Hieun Tsang has praised the fertility of land, and the artistic talents and courage of the people.

Mahendravarman II succeeded his father Narasimhavarman I. The Kings who succeeded **Mahendravarman II** were not able men. At the end of 9th century A.D., **Aparajitha,** the last Pallava King was defeated by the Chola King **Aditya I** and the Pallava rule came to an end. Chola supremacy began.

THE CHALUKYAS

There were three sects among the Chalukyas. They were the Western Chalukyas of Vatapi (550-753 A.D.) the Eastern Chalukyas of Vengi and the Later Chalukyas of Kalyan. We will now deal only with the Western Chalukyas.

The founder of the Western Chalukya rule was **Pulakesin I**. Among the Chalukya Kings, **Pulakesin II** was the most famous. He was a great warrior. He defeated the Pallava ruler Mahendravarman I. Also, he defeated Harsha, the emperor of North India on the Narmada and checked his advance to Deccan. Hieun Tsang, the Chinese pilgrim visited the Court of Pulakesin II. He praised him and his government. The Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman defeated this great Chalukya ruler and sacked Vatapi in 642 A.D. In the sack of Vatapi, Pulakesin lost his life.

Pulakesin II was succeeded by **Vikramaditya I.** He completely defeated the Pallavas and won back Vatapi. **Vikramaditya II** was the next ruler who captured the Pallava Capital. **Kirthivarman**, who succeeded Vikramaditya was overthrown by the Rashtrakutas and the Chalukya rule came to an end.

THE RASHTRAKUTAS (753–973 A.D.)

After the Western Chalukyas, for two hundred and twenty years, the Rashtrakutas were the chief ruling dynasty in the Deccan. The Rashtrakuta Kings were war like and they fought with all their neighbours and established a powerful Kingdom. Their capital was Manyakheta (Malkhed in Andhra Pradesh).

The first famous Rashtrakuta King was **Danti Durga**. He was the founder of the dynasty. He fought many battles and extended his kingdom, which included Kanchi. The next famous King of the Rashtrakuta dynasty was **Krishna I**. He completely crushed the Chalukya ruler. He was not only a great warrior but also a great builder, The world famous Kailasa (Siva) Temple, at Ellora was constructed by him.

The next important Kings were **Govinda III and Amoghavarsha**. Govinda defeated the Gurjaras and Palas of North India and extended his power in North India. Amoghavarsha was another great Rashtrakuta King. He was a Jain. He established peace and order in his Kingdom and encouraged art and literature. He was by himself very learned and is said to have written 'Kavirajamarga' in Kannada language.

Krishna III was the last great ruler of the Rashtrakuta dynasty. After his death, the glory of the Rashtrakutas declined.

During the reign of the Rashtrakutas, Hinduism spread among the masses. The Rashtrakuta Kings built many temples. They excavated cave temples from rocks. Such temples are seen at Ellora even today. Some Rashtrakuta Kings (Amoghavarsha) patronised Jainism. But Buddhism declined during this period.

Exercises

I. Write detailed answers

1. Write a few sentences about Mahendravarman I.
2. Explain the greatness of Narasimhavarman I.
3. Write a note on Mamallapuram.

II. Write short answers

1. Name the Pallava King who opposed Samudragupta.
2. Who was the most famous Pallava King?
3. Who was the founder of the Western Chalukya rule?
4. Name the last Pallava King.
5. What was the Capital of Western Chalukyas?
6. What was the Capital of Rashtrakutas?
7. Who constructed the world famous Kailasa temple at Ellora?

III. Write 'Yes' or 'No' against the statements given below

1. Mahendravarman I defeated Pulakesin II, the Chalukya King. ( )
2. Kancheepuram was the Capital of the Pallavas. ( )

3. Narasimhavarman I and Harsha lived at the same time. ( )
4. Pulakesin II defeated Harsha. ( )
5. The Rashtrakutas defeated the Chalukyas and established a Kingdom. ( )
6. 'Kavirajamarga' is said to have been written by the Rashtrakuta ruler, Amoghavarsha. ( )

IV. Do it Yourself

1. Locate on the map of South India the Chalukya and Pallava Kingdoms and indicate Vatapi, Kancheepuram, Ellora and Mamallapuram.
2. Collect some pictures of temples at Mamallapuram, Kancheepuram and Ellora and paste them in your album.
3. Pay a visit to Mamallapuram and Kancheepuram.

CHAPTER XIII

THE GREAT CHOLAS OR LATER CHOLAS

Introduction

The Chola Kingdom wasa very ancient one. The early Chola Kingdom declined after Karikalan, in the 2nd century A.D. Chola power revived again about the middle of the 9th century A. D. **Vijayalaya Chola** occupied Tanjore and made it his capital. Hence the dynasty founded by him was known as 'Thanjai Cholas' and also as 'the Vijayalaya Chola dynasty'.

Important Kings

Aditya succeeded Vijayalaya and he enhanced the power and prestige of the Chola dynasty. He also defeated the Pallava King Aparajitha and extended the Chola Kingdom. Aditya was succeeded by **Parantaka I,** who ruled from 907 to 955 A.D. He was the real founder of Chola supremacy in South India. He gave a gold covering to the roof of the temple of Nataraja at Chidambaram. The most powerful Kings who followed him were **Rajaraja the Great** and **Rajendra Chola I.**

Rajaraja—the Great (985-1014 A.D.)

Rajaraja Chola was the greatest of the Chola Kings. He was one of the greatest sovereigns of South India. He was a great conqueror and empire builder. His empire extended along the fertile banks of the river Cauvery. He was therefore affectionately

called by his people 'the Darling of Ponni'. River Ponni is the other name for Cauvery. His reign was full of events. His first victory was achieved early in his reign, when he defeated the Chera navy. He next defeated the Pandyas of Madurai. He annexed a part of Ceylon and a large part of Mysore to his Kingdom. He invaded the Kingdom of the Chalukyas. With the help of his navy, he conquered the Maladive islands. His empire included the whole of South India upto the Tungabhadra, the Maladives and a part of Ceylon. His daughter was married to the Eastern Chalukya Yuvaraja of Vengi. This resulted in the union of the Cholas and the Chalukyas.

Rajaraja was a benevolent monarch. He not only conquered territories but also administered them efficiently. He built dams and dug tanks to irrigate lands. He also encouraged local self government throughout his Kingdom. He associated his son, Rajendra with himself in the administration of his Kingdom.

Rajaraja was a Saivite and Saivism flourished during his reign. His fervour for Saivism was by no means intolerant of other religions. He built the world famous Brahadheswarar temple at Thanjavur. It is also known as Rajarajeswarar temple after his name. The huge Nandhi carved out of one piece of rock and the sculptures in the temple are the outstanding examples of the sculptural and architectural skill of Rajaraja Chola's days.

It must be remembered that not a piece of rock can be found in and around Thanjavur which is

located in the delta region of Cauvery and yet this temple also known as 'Periya Koil' was completely built of stones. This speaks of the greatness of the Chola King and his dedicated people. He was a patron of music, dancing and painting. He was in every way the greatest of the Chola Kings. He

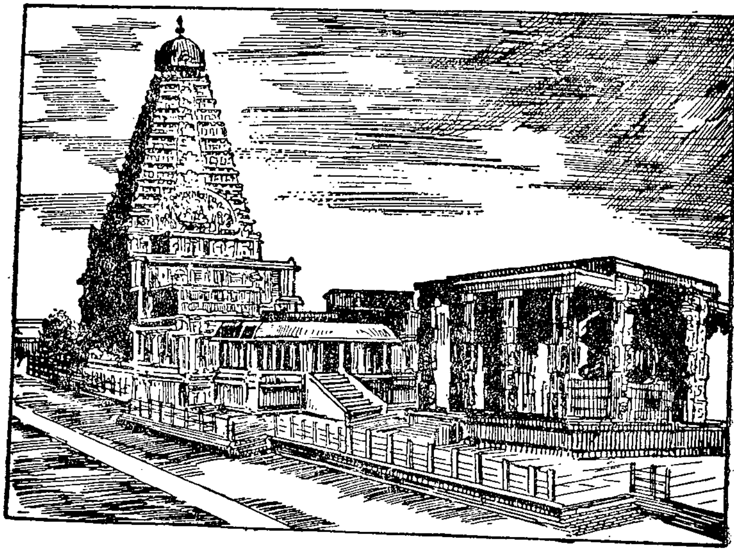


Fig. 25. Brahadheswarar Temple

enjoyed many titles. Some of them were 'Sivapatha-sekar', 'Mummudi Cholar', 'Thirumarai Kanda Cholar' and 'Raja Kesari'.

Rajendra Chola I (1014 to 1044 A.D.)

Rajaraja Chola was succeeded by his son Rajendra Chola I. He had taken an active part in the affairs of the state as the Crown Prince and when he became the King, he proved to be an able administrator and a great warrior.

A few years after coming to the throne, Rajendra annexed the whole of Ceylon. He led a naval expedition to the Andaman Nicobar Islands, Sri Vijaya and Kadaram and conquered them. Sri Vijaya is Sumatra and Kadaram is Malaya. Rajendra was therefore known as 'Kadaram Kondan', meaning one who had conquered Kadaram. He came into conflict with the Western Chalukyan King and conquered his territory He also gave his daughter in marriage to the Eastern Chalukya ruler and strengthened his position. He conquered the Chera and Pandya Kings also. He defeated the Gangas of Mysore. Rajendra I, entrusted the expedition of north Eastern India to his general. The Chola army crossed the Godavari and Mahanadi and reached West Bengal. The Army crossed the Ganges and defeated **Mahipala**, the King of Bengal. Rajendra Chola was given the title 'Gangai Konda Cholan' which means the conquerer of the Ganges. To commemorate this victory, he built a town called Gangai-Konda-Cholapuram and made it his capital There he built a temple like the Tanjore Brahadheeswarar Temple.

Like his father, Rajendra Chola I was also a patron of arts and literature. He is rightly called the great son of a great father.

THE KULOTHUNGAS

After the death of Rajendra, troubles came thick on the Chola Kingdom. The Pandyas, the Cheras and the Gangas revolted. The western Chalukyas invaded South India and defeated the Chola King. Five Kings ruled successively over the Chola Kingdom after Rajendra only for a period of less than twenty

eight years. Relief, however came to the country in 1070 A.D. when **Rajendra Chalukya alias Kulothunga I** came to the Chola throne.

Kulothunga I (1070-1120 A.D.)

Rajendra Chalukya was a great grandson of Raja raja Chola and a grandson of Rajendra Chola I, because of the marriage alliances between the Chola and Chalukya families. In Kulothunga I, the Chola and the Eastern Chalukyan Kingdoms were united. He waged a successful war against the Kalinga King but did not annex Kalinga with his Kingdom. This war is described by Jayamkondar, a court poet, in his 'Kalinga-thuparani'. As there was lasting peace in his Kingdom, he abolished customs duty on imports and relieved the hardships of merchants and travellers. He was therefore known as 'Sungam Thavirtha Cholan', meaning the Chola who abolished customs duty. Lands were surveyed and land revenue was fixed. He patronised both Tamil and Telugu literature as he united in himself the blood of the Chalukyas and the Cholas. Kanchi became an important centre during his reign.

Kulothunga I, was succeeded by his son Vikrama Chola. Vikrama Chola was succeeded by his son Kulothunga II.

Kulothunga II (1133-1150 A.D.)

Kulothunga II, known also as 'Anapayan' gave liberal donations to Lord Nataraja temple at Chidambaram. He was a Saivite. It was during his time that the stories of the 63 Nayanmars were narrated in verse form by his minister **Sekizhar**. These stories were

put together in the famous book 'Periya Puranam', which is also known as 'Thiruthondarpuranam'. He also patronised other learned men. Kambar, Ottakuthar and Pugazhendhi lived in his time. The next important King, who ruled after him was Kulothunga III.

Kulothunga III (1178-1216 A.D.)

Most of his time was spent in warfare with the neighbouring Kingdoms, specially with the Pandya Kingdom. Kulothunga III defeated the Pandyas. He was therefore titled as 'Chola Pandya'. His empire extended from Vengi in the north to Kanyakumari in the South. He was also a lover of art and architecture. He was the last of the great Chola Kings. By his personal ability, Kulothunga III delayed the decline of the Chola empire. But after him, the Chola dynasty came to a close, owing to internal troubles and the rise of the Pandyas.

Art and Literature

The age of the Later Cholas was a period of great progress in Tamil literature. Books were written to spread the idea of Bakthi or devotion. 'Periyapuranam', 'Thiruvilayadal puranam' and 'Thiru marai Kanda puranam' belong to this category. The famous poets like Kambar, Ottakuthar and Pugazhendhi lived during this period. The Later Cholas developed the Dravidian style of architecture and almost perfected it. A large number of Siva temples were constructed by the Chola Kings. The Cholas built a strong navy with which they extended their empire overseas. The Bay of Bengal became a Chola lake and the Eastern coast came to be called Cholamandala Karai or Coramandel coast. Above all, they set up a highly efficient system of administration.

Chola Administration

The Chola administration was a splendid example of the administrative ability of the Tamils. The empire was divided into several divisions such as Mandalam, Kottam, Nadu and Kutram. Village was the basic unit of administration and it enjoyed much freedom.

An inscription from Uthiramerur about 80 kilometres South of Madras describes the written constitution of the Village Panchayat. The village was divided into 30 wards. One representative was to be elected for each ward. Specific qualifications were prescribed for those who wanted to contest the election. The essential qualifications were age limit, possession of minimum immovable property and minimum educational qualification. Not rendering proper accounts for the public posts held, acceptance of bribe, misappropriation of public property and acting against the interests of society were some of the disqualifications. The names of all eligible persons in each ward were written on separate leaves and made into a bundle. On the appointed day all the members of the village assembled at the village hall. The village elders would be seated on a raised platform. For each ward, there was a separate pot and a young boy would be asked to pull out one leaf from each pot. The name of the person found on the leaf was deemed to have been elected. This method ensured that every citizen had a say in promoting the full, free, independent and happy life of the members of the community.

The King was the head of the administration. He was assisted by a council of ministers and high

ranking officers. The King himself went about in disguise to find out the real conditions of his people. He had also trained spies who went all over the country to find out the real state of affairs. The Kings were very much interested in the welfare of the people. For the welfare of the people, they maintained charity homes and free medical dispensaries all over the empire.

The Cholas were great patrons of education. They established colleges at places like Thirubhuvanai and Ennayiram for the study of Tamil and Sanskrit. Devotional songs were set to music and sung in temples and mutts. Schools of arts, music, dancing, drama and sculpture were established.

Agriculture was the main occupation of the people. The Cholas spent a lot of money on public works. There was an extensive scheme of irrigation. Dams were constructed to divert the water of rivers into smaller channels. Tanks and wells were also used for irrigation. The farmers enjoyed all these benefits of irrigation. There was abundant yield from lands. Seeing this, the poets sang 'Chola Nadu Sorudaithu' meaning that Chola Nadu was rich in rice.

Exercises

I. Write Detailed answers.

1. Write a note on 'Tanjore Periya Koil'.
2. What were Rajendra Chola's victories?
3. Describe the reign of Kulothunga I.
4. Explain the achievements of Kulothunga II.
5. Describe the contribution of the later Cholas to Tamil literature and Art.
6. What were the special features of the Chola administration?

II. Write short answers

1. By what names were the Later Cholas known?
2. What were the other names given to Rajaraja Chola I?
3. What was the capital of later Cholas?
4. By whom was Gangai Konda Cholapuram built?
5. What were the other names given to Rajendra Chola I?
6. Who sang the heroic poem Kalingathuparani?
7. Who is known as 'The King who abolished custom duties'?
8. Who composed Periya puranam?
9. In whose days was Periya puranam composed?
10. Mention the names of any two poets who lived during the later Chola period.

III. Choose the best answer

1. The world famous temple of Brahadheswarar was built by
   (a) Rajaraja I (b) Rajendra Chola I
   (c) Kulothunga I (d) Kulothunga II
2. Rajendra Chola was also known as
   (a) Mummudi Cholar (b) Rajakesari
   (c) Sivapathasekhar (d) Kadaram Kondar
3. The Tamil poet Jayangondar lived during the reign of
   (a) Kulothunga I (b) Kulothunga II
   (c) Kulothunga III (d) Vikrama Chola
4. Gangai Konda Cholapuram was built by
   (a) Kulothunga III (b) Rajaraja Chola I
   (c) Rajaraja Chola II (d) Rajendra Chola I

IV. Do it yourself

1. Collect pictures of temples of the later Chola period and paste them in your album.
2. Read about the lives of great poets like Kambar, Ottakuthar, Pugazhendhi and Sekizhar.
3. Sing some songs from 'Kalingathu Parani', 'Periyapuranam' and 'Thiruvilayadal puranam'.
4. Visit Thanjavur and Uthiramerur.

CHAPTER XIV

THE LATER PANDYA KINGS

Introduction

We have studied about the two Nedunchezhians of the Sangam Age in an earlier chapter. In the 7th century A. D. the Pandyas became powerful in South India. The most important Pandya King of the Middle Period was **Arikesari Maravarman** who ruled from 670–710 A.D. He was at first a Jain and later became a Saivite thanks to the influence of the famous Nayanar, Thirugnanasambandar. He was known as 'Koon-Pandyan' and 'Nindrasir Nedumaran'. It is said that his shoulder was bent but later he became erect in body owing to the grace of Lord Siva. After the Pandyas of the Middle Period, the Later Cholas or Tanjore Cholas became powerful. When the Chola Empire broke down in the 13th century, the Pandyas came back to power. They are called the 'Later Pandyas'.

Important Kings

MARAVARMAN SUNDARA PANDYAN I (1216—1238 A. D.) : Among the later Pandyas, **Maravarman Sundara Pandyan I** was a famous King. He defeated the Chola King and annexed his territory.

JATA VARMAN SUNDARA PANDYAN (1251–1272 A.D.): The next famous King after Maravarman Sundara Pandyan was **Jata Varman Sundara Pandyan.** He was one of the most famous

conquerers of South India. Under his rule the Pandyan Kingdom attained its greatest glory. He defeated the Chera King and compelled him to pay him tribute. He attacked the Hoysalas and defeated them. He conquered the Kongunadu. He occupied Kanchi, which became a secondary Capital of Pandyas. He defeated Kakatiyas and captured Nellore. He also invaded Ceylon and got a vast quantity of pearls and many elephants from its ruler. He established a big Kingdom in South India which extended upto Nellore. As a result of his wars, Sundara Pandyan came to possess a vast treasure. He used this treasure to beautify the temples of Siva and Vishnu at Chidambaram and Srirangam.

MARAVARMAN KULASEKHARAN I (1272–1311 A. D.) : **Maravarman Kulasekharan I**, succeeded Sundara Pandyan. He was also a great ruler. Kulasekhara defeated the Cholas and Hoysalas. He became the master of the Chola country and the Tamil districts of the Hoysala empire. He suppressed a local rising in Chera Kingdom. He also invaded Ceylon. He was a Saivite. He took steps to improve the Nellaiappar temple in Tirunelveli.

Marco Polo's Visit

During Kulasekhara Pandya's rule, the Vanetian traveller **Marco Polo** visited the Pandyan Kingdom. We come to know about the Pandyas from his accounts. He had written about the Pandyas, their wealth and splendour, their commerce and about their rule. He had also described **KAYAL**, port of the later Pandyas on the banks of the river Thamraparani as a great and noble city, where all ships, laden with horses and with other things for sale touched.

Some of his other remarks are - 'Pandyan country has been famous for pearls. The King derived great revenue from pearl-fishing. Every one, male or female did wash the body twice every day. In eating, people used their right hand only. Punishments were very strictly enforced.'

The Fall of Later Pandyas

During the last years of Kulasekhara, quarrels arose between his sons. Kulasekhara wanted his younger son, Veera Pandya to succeed him. The elder son Sundara Pandya started a war after the death of his father. The younger son won the war. The defeated elder son went in for the aid of Malik kafur, an army commander of Allauddin Khilji, the Muslim King of North India. Malik kafur invaded the Pandyan Kingdom. As a result of the invasion, the Pandyan Kingdom was destroyed.

Art and Sculpture of Later Pandyas

The Pandyan rulers were impartial to all religions. They patronised art, sculpture, painting and other fine arts. Meenakshiamman temple at Madurai, Nellaiappar temple at Tirunelveli, Sri Ranganathaswamy temple at Srirangam and Nataraja temple at Chidambaram speak of the art and sculpture of the Pandyan Kingdom.

Exercises

I. Write detailed answers

1. Who was the most famous of the later Pandyas ? Give reasons.
2. Write a note on Marco Polo's visit to the Pandyan Kingdom.

II. Give short answers

1. Name the King who beautified the temples of Siva and Vishnu at Chidambaram and Srirangam.
2. Mention the name of the Venetian traveller who visited the Pandyan Kingdom.

III. Fill in the blanks with suitable words

1. Marco Polo visited the Pandyan Kingdom during the reign of———.
2. ——— was the port of the later Pandyas.
3. ———, army Commander of Allauddin Khilji invaded the Pandyan Kingdom.

IV. Do it yourself

1. Collect pictures of the temples patronised by the later Pandyas and paste them in your album.
2. Visit Madurai.

CHAPTER XV

THE RISE OF MUSLIM POWER IN INDIA

First Muslim Invasion

The Arab Invasion (8th Century)

There are three peninsulas in the southern part of the continent of Asia. The Arabian Peninsula is in the south-west of Asia. In 570 A.D. a great Prophet, Muhammad by name, was born in Mecca in Arabia. He attempted to make the people follow the right path. He preached the religion of Islam. The followers of Islam are known as Muslims. The Koran is the Holy Book of Islam.

Islam spread rapidly in Syria, Egypt, Persia, Turkey and Afghanistan. In ancient times, the Arabs traded with India. They knew much about the wealth and fertility of India. They were often attacking the western part of this country. **Muhammad-bin-Kasim,** an Arab Commander, invaded Sind in 712 A.D. He conquered that region. The Arabs ruled Sind for some years. But their rule did not last long. Sind was not a fertile region. In the beginning the Rajputs who lived here were strong and powerful. The Thar Desert on the eastern side of Sind prevented the Arabs from expanding into the eastern part of India.

The Arab Conquest of Sind was only an episode. It was the first Muslim invasion of India (8th Century A.D.) The Second invasion was the Turko-Afghan

invasion which took place in the 11th and 12th centuries. This led to the establishment of permanent Muslim rule in India. **Mahmud of Ghazni** was the foremost among the Turko-Afghan kings who invaded India.

Second Muslim Invasion
Turko-Afghan Invasion
(11th and 12th Centuries A.D.)

Mahmud of Ghazni (11th Century)

Afghanistan lies to the north-west of the sub-continent of India. A Muslim kingdom arose in Afghanistan with **Ghazni** as its capital towards the end of the 10th century A.D. This kingdom was established by **Sabuktigin.** He was succeeded by his son **Mahmud.** He combined in himself the qualities of courage and resourcefulness.

Mahmud had heard of the wealth and fertility of India. He desired to invade India and take away its wealth. It was not his desire to spread his religion or to establish a stable kingdom in India. He came to India in 999 A.D. He invaded India seventeen times and took away a lot of wealth. At first he attacked the Punjab and defeated its ruler **Jaipal.**

Later he attacked Kanauj, Mathura and Gujarat. At last Mahmud raided **Somnath** in Gujarat in 1022 A.D. and attacked the temple there. The Hindus there put up a stout resistance. But it was in vain. Mahmud entered the temple, destroyed the idol and carried away all its rich treasures, like gold and gems to his own country.

Mahmud spent the wealth taken from India to beautify his capital. Ghazni became the chief centre of art, literature and science. Mahmud founded a university at Ghazni. He patronised* men of learning also. Many poets adorned his court. **Firdausi**, the Persian Poet, was in the court of Mahmud. He was the author of the famous book, 'Shahnama'. We come to know much of Mahmud through this book. His empire extended from the Caspian Sea to the Punjab.

Muhammad of Ghor (12th Century)

After Mahmud of Ghazni his empire declined. **Ghor**, a place near Ghazni, came into *prominence. Its ruler **Muhammad** invaded India in 1175 A.D, and captured Multan. He again invaded India in 1186 and captured Lahore. He wanted to conquer India and establish a Muslim kingdom there.

At that time there were a number of small kingdoms in the north-western part of India. They were ruled by Rajput kings. There was no unity among them. In 1191 A.D. Muhammad of Ghor invaded India. **Prithviraj**, the ruler of Delhi and Ajmer, resisted him. Prithviraj was a man of valour and great talents. A battle took place between Muhammad of Ghor and Prithviraj at **Tarain** near **Thaneswar** in 1191 A.D. Several Rajput kings helped Prithviraj with their armies. But **Jayachandra** the ruler of Kanauj, did not support Prithviraj. Even then. Muhammad of Ghor was defeated in the

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**Patronised* : encouraged

**Prominence* : well-known

battle and he returned to his country with a view to invading India again.

Not discouraged by his defeat, Ghori raised a strong and big army and invaded India the next year itself. He had made adequate preparations. Again Muhammad of Ghor and Prithviraj met at Tarain. Muhammad Ghori won the battle this time. Prithviraj was defeated and killed. The second battle of Tarain laid the foundation for Muslim dominion in North India. Delhi came under the rule of Muhammad Ghori. Then he conquered Ajmer. He attacked Kanauj in 1194 A.D. and defeated its ruler Jayachandra. Jayachandra was killed. Thus Muhammad Ghori conquered a large part of North India. Muhammad Ghori appointed **Qutb-ud-din Aibak**, his most faithful slave, as his representative in India and returned to Ghor. Muhammad Ghori was killed on the banks of the Jhelum while he was returning to Afghanistan in 1205. As a result, Qutb-ud-din became the First Sultan of Delhi. At first Qutb-ud-din was a slave of Muhammad Ghori. Later he became his trusted General and Viceroy. Finally he became the Sultan. So the dynasty which he established was known as the **Slave Dynasty**. The disunity among the Rajputs and the old and ineffective methods of warfare followed by them led to the establishment of Muslim dominion in India.

Muslim Rule in India (1206—1526 A.D.)

The Slave Dynasty (1206—1290 A.D.)

Qutb-ud-din (1206—1210) : After the death of Muhammad Ghori, **Qutb-ud-din** became the First Sultan of Delhi and began to rule as an

independent ruler. He brought a large part of Northern India under his rule. He established a strong government. He started constructing **Qutb Minar**, a tall tower at Delhi, to celebrate his victories. But it was not finished in his time.

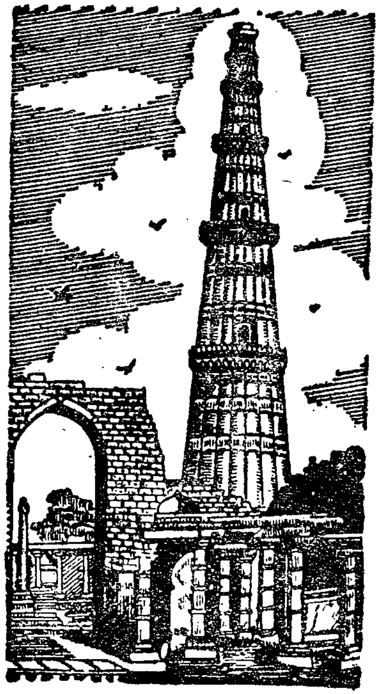


Fig. 26. Delhi Qutb Minar

Iltutmish (1211–1235 A.D.): Qutb-ud-din died in 1210 A.D. He was succeeded by **Iltutmish** an able Sultan. He was a distinguished slave of Qutb-ud-din. In his time the Qutb Minar's construction was completed. It was during the reign of Iltutmish that Chenghiz Khan, a great Mongol leader, invaded India. Luckily, the Mongols did not penetrate into India. They withdrew from India and returned home.

Sultana Raziyya (1236–1239 A.D.) : Iltutmish was succeeded by his daughter **Sultana Raziyya.** She had training in the art of governance during her father's rule of Delhi. She was the first queen to occupy the throne of Delhi. Sultana Raziyya

fell a victim to the plots of influential nobles and she and her husband were together put to death.

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban (1266 – 1287 A. D.) : After Sultana Raziyya the most important ruler was **Ghiyas-ud-din Balban**. He was a capable sultan. He had diplomatic skill. His knowledge of politics was remarkable. He lived in very difficult times. So he was strict and watchful. He built forts and stationed them with soldiers and thus ensured security to the people. He tried to defend the north-west border against the Mongol raids. His soldiers received good military training and were highly disciplined. He had an efficient secret service which enabled him to know of all the plots made by his nobles. Balban led a highly simple life. His son Muhammad who was the Governor of Multan patronised men of letters. **Amir Khusrav** who is praised as the 'Parrot of India' was a famous poet in his court.

Fall of the Slave dynasty

The Sultans who succeeded Balban were not able men. The bad administration of the inefficient sultans, political plots and the rivalry among the nobles weakened the kingdom. Then **Jalal-ud-din Khilji** ascended the throne of Delhi.

The Khilji Dynasty (1290–1320 A.D.)

Jalal-ud-din Khilji was the founder of the Khilji dynasty. He was a weak, seventy year old man when he became the Sultan of Delhi. **Ala-ud-din Khilji,** his son-in-law, was his important General. On his orders. Ala-ud-din Khilji invaded Malwa.

He went to Devagiri from Malwa, defeated its ruler and returned with much wealth. After his victorious return to Delhi, Ala-ud-din plotted and killed his father-in-law. Then he became the new ruler of Delhi.

Alauddin's victories : Ala-ud-din Khilji put down the rebellions of the nobles. He did not allow the nobles to maintain private armies. He watched their activities through spies. Ala-ud-din wanted to conquer the whole of India and establish an empire. He captured Ranthambhor and Gujarat. After a fierce battle he took Mewar and its capital Chitore. A great part of Rajaputana came under his rule.

He had to deal with the Mongol raids. He personally led an army and drove out the Mongols. He strengthened the forts that lay between Delhi and the borders of his Sultanate, stationed troops in them and protected the north western frontier of his kingdom.

Malik kafur was an able general of the Sultan. Ala-ud-din sent Malik Kafur with a big army to bring South India under his rule. Kafur made the Yadava ruler of Devagiri surrender and pay tribute to the Delhi sultan. He defeated the Kakatiya ruler of Warangal. He then attacked the Hoysala ruler of Dwarasamudra in 1310 A.D. and made him surrender. He then defeated the Pandyas of Madurai and returned to Delhi with rich treasures.

His administration: Ala-ud-din was not only a capable warrior but he was also an able administrator. He suppressed the nobles. He asked the farmers to

pay half of their produce to the State. He did not increase the pay of his soldiers but he controlled the prices of articles and enabled his soldiers to live on a

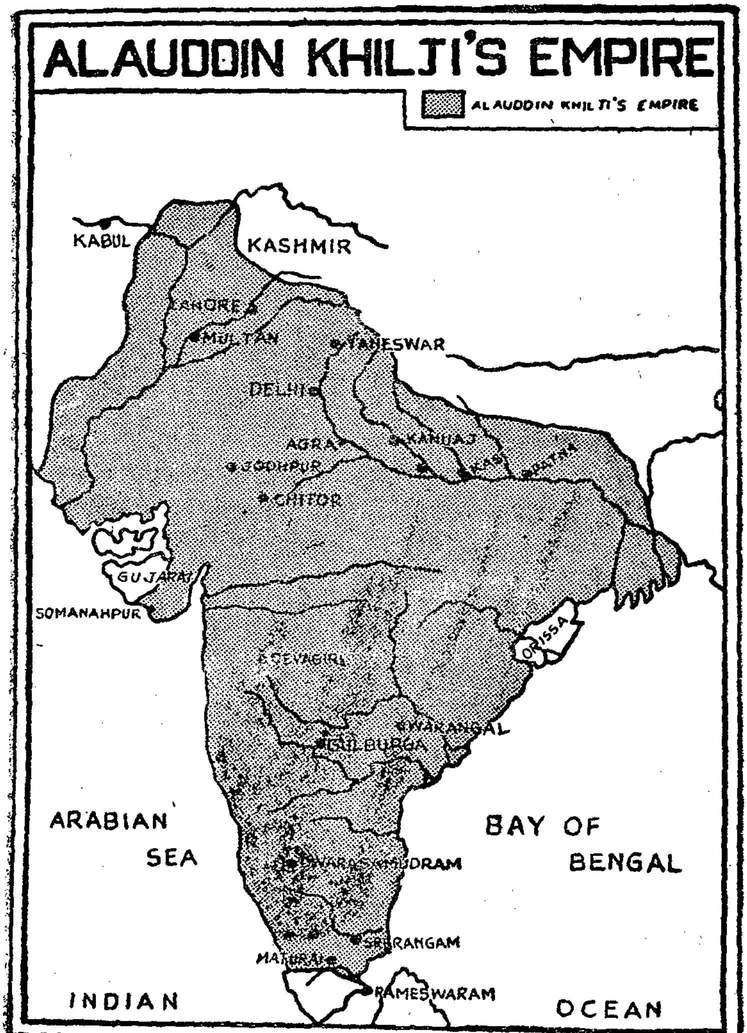


Fig. 27. Alauddin Khilji's Empire

low income. People could pay their land-tax either in cash or in the form of grain. So granaries were built. No private *hoarding of grain was allowed. The merchants who *violated rules relating to weights were punished severely.

Ala-ud-din patronised men of learning though he himself was an illiterate. Amir Khusrav adorned his court.

Fall of the Khiljis

The Khilji dynasty began to decline after Ala-ud-din's death. His successors were weak. The last Sultan was defeated by **Ghiyas-ud-din Tughluq.** Then the rule of the Tughluq Dynasty began in Delhi.

The Tughluq Dynasty (1321—1412 A.D.)

Muhammad-bin-Tughluq (1325—1351 A.D.): Ghyias-ud-din Tughluq who overthrew the Khiljis ruled only for a short period. His son Juna Khan succeeded him. He began to rule under the title of **Muhammad-bin-Tughluq**. He was a learned man. He had a deep knowledge of Persian poetry. He had studied logic and Greek Philosophy. He was good at mathematics and he had a great love for science. He was a liberal, religiousminded person, yet very cruel and merciless. Thus he was a mixture of opposite qualities. The policies followed by him, though they were really good, were not suitable for the

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hoarding : overstocking oneself with food etc., in times of non-availability of food, etc.

violated: went against.

age in which he lived. His unwise actions contributed to the overthrow of the Delhi Sultanate.

Change of Capital : Delhi was the capital at first of the Muslim Kingdom. But when it expanded in a big way under Alauddin Khilji, the sultan wished that the capital should be in the centre of the Empire. He wanted to keep it safe from Mongol invasions. So he changed his capital from Delhi to **Devagiri** in the Deccan and renamed it **Daulatabad.** He provided it with buildings for his officials and people to live in. He ordered all the people to move from Delhi to Daulatabad. They underwent a lot of difficulties on the way. The Sultan changed his mind and reshifted the capital to Delhi. He ordered the people to go back there. They suffered untold misery.

Token Currency: The wastage of money in impracticable schemes resulted in his treasury becoming empty. Tughluq needed money to run his administration and to conquer lands. Gold and silver coins were in use in those days. He issued token coins of copper or brass which could be used as gold and silver coins. People started *counterfeiting copper coins. Every village became an open mint. The royal treasury was filled with counterfeit copper coins. Gold and silver coins disappeared from the treasury. Trade and industry were badly affected. Thereupon Tughluq gave up he token curruncy reform.

Expedition against the Himalayan States : Tughluq wanted to conquer some Himalayan king-

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**Counterfeiting :* imitating in order to deceive.

doms. So he sent an army to the Himalayan region. It had to cross the snowy peaks of the Himalayas. The soldiers suffered a lot on account of cold. They had no proper equipment to protect themselves from the biting cold. As a result, thousands of soldiers died.

Results of the Sultan's unwise policies : Tughluq's unwise policies led to huge loss of life and property. The Muslim governors in the provinces and the Hindu leaders defied his authority. Some governors declared themselves as independent rulers. There was no peace in his last days.

Firuz Shah Tughluq (1351–1388 A.D.) **:** Firuz Shah, a cousin of Muhammad bin Tughluq, succeeded Muhammad. He worked hard to undo all the wrongs done to the people during the reign of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq. The country enjoyed peace and prosperity during his reign. He abolished all unjust taxes. He paid special attention to the improvement of agriculture. He improved irrigation facilities and levied an irrigation tax. Firuz Shah Tughluq built mosques and colleges. He founded many cities. Of them the important are Jaunpur, Hissar and Firuzabad. The Sultans who succeeded him were weak. The Tughluq dynasty began to decline. In 1398 A.D. **Timur**, King of Samarkhand, invaded India and plundered Delhi. Timur's invasion hastened the downfall of the Tughluq dynasty. Utter disorder prevailed in India.

The Sayyid Dynasty (1414–1451 A.D.)

There was no stable government at Delhi for a period of nearly fifteen years after Timur's invasion.

Then **Khizr Khan,** the founder of the Sayyid dynasty, occupied the throne of Delhi. The three sultans who succeeded him ruled Delhi and the surrounding areas. They were Arabs.

The Lodi Dynasty (1451—1526 A.D.)

Ala-ud-din was the last Sultan of the Sayyid dynasty. He was a weak ruler. He handed the reins of his power to **Buhlul Khan Lodi,** retired to Badaun and led a life of ease and pleasure. Buhlul Lodi was an Afghan. He consolidated his power. He died in 1498 A.D. **Sikandar,** his eldest son, came next to the throne. He was a shrewd and capable ruler. After his death, his eldest son Irahim Lodi succeeded him. Ibrahim was the last ruler of this dynasty. He ruled the kingdom as a tyrant. The people hated him. **Daulat Khan Lodi**, the governor of Lahore, rebelled against him. He invited Babur, the ruler of Kabul, to attack India. Babur invaded India in 1526 A.D. and defeated Ibrahim Lodi at the First Battle of Panipat. Babur, the victor established the Mughal rule in India.

Results of the rule of the Sultans in Delhi

Spread of Islam

The Sultanate of Delhi lasted for more than three hundred years. As the Sultanate continued for a long period of time, Islam spread in India and the Muslim community increased in numbers.

Growth of Languages

Urdu, a new language, was developed. It was a mixture of Persian, Arabic, Turkish and Sanskrit languages. Amir Khusrav, a poet, composed verses and rose to fame.

Bhakti Movement

Islam and Hinduism *flourished in the country side by side. As a result of this, a 'Bhakti Movement' started in North India. **Ramananda, Vallabacharya** and **Chaitanya** were some of the great leaders of this movement and they carried the message of Bhakti to the illiterate masses. They preached the basic equality of all religions. The idea, 'God is One' was preached by them. **Bhakta Kabir** Das was the chief among such leaders. **Meerabai** composed and sang many sweet, devotional songs.

Indo-Saracenic Architecture

The contribution of the Delhi Sultanate to the growth of Indian art is great. It represented a *blending of Indian and Islamic styles. The new style was known as Indo-Saracenic architecture. The tower of the Qutb Minar is an example of the new style of architecture. The Jami Masjid in Gujarat with its 260 pillars stands as a beautiful, attractive building.

Downfall of the Delhi Sultanate—Causes

There were several causes for the downfall of the Delhi Sultanate. Some Sultans led a life of pleasure. They did not rule the country properly. The provinces *asserted their independence owing to the rebellions of the nobles. The unwise acts of Muhammad-bin-Tughlug weakened the administration. The long stay

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**flourished*: grew well
**blending* : mixture
**asserted* : declared

of the Muslim army in India affected its strength and discipline. The system of granting jagirs or estates to the nobles increased their influence. The invasion of Timur and the tyrannical rule of Ibrahim Lodi led to the fall of the Delhi Sultanate.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Who was Mahmud of Ghazni? Write a short note on his policy and achievements.
2. Why did Muhammad Ghori invade India? When did he win the battle at Tarain?
3. Who was the greatest Sultan of the Slave dynasty? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Mention the reforms of Ala-ud-din Khilji?
5. What were the unwise acts of Muhammad-bin-Tughluq?
6. Mention any four results in the rule of the Delhi Sultans.
7. Why did the rule of the Delhi Sultans decline?

II. Give short answers

1. Who was the first Arab commander that invaded India?
2. When did Mahmud of Ghazni attack Somnath?
3. Who was the founder of the Slave Dynasty?
4. Who was the Sultan of Delhi that completed the Qutb Minar?
5. Name one of the ablest generals of Ala-ud-din Khilji?
6. When and between whom did the First Batle of Panipat take place?

III. Fill in the blanks

1. In A.D. 570, ———, a great Prophet, was born. He preached the religion of ———.

2. In A.D. 1191, Prithviraj, the Rajput ruler of Delhi, defeated———at———.

3. ——— was the first queen that ruled Delhi.

4. Muhammad-bin-Tughluq changed his capital from ———to———.

5. In A.D. 1398 ——— invaded India. He sacked Delhi.

IV. Do it yourself

1. On the outline map of India, mark the extent of Ala-ud-din's Empire.

2. Prepare a chart bringing out the details of the rule of the different Sultans of Delhi.

CHAPTER XVI

THE BAHMANI KINGDOM AND THE VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE

THE BAHMANI KINGDOM (1347–1482 A.D.)

There was unrest towards the end of the reign of Muhammad bin Tughluq. The Bahmani Kingdom came into existence in the Deccan taking advantage of the weakness of the Tughluq rule. **Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah** established a kingdom in 1347. In Indian history, he is also known as **Hasan Gangu Bahman.** Hasan was a descendant of the famous Persian hero **Bahman.** So the kingdom established by him is called as the Bahmani Kingdom. This is one view. Another view is that Hasan had risen in the service of a Brahman **Gangu**, and as a tribute to his Brahman patron he called himself **Hasan Gangu** and the kingdom as the Bahmani Kingdom.

Hasan Gangu selected **Gulbarga** as his capital. Hasan set upon a career of conquest when the rulers of the south refused to submit to him. When his glory was at its height, his kingdom extended from Wainganga river in the north to the Krishna river in the south and from Daulatabad in the west to Bhongir in the east.

He divided his kingdom into four provinces in the larger interests of his administration. They were **Gulbarga, Daulatabad, Berar** and **Bidar.** Each province was placed in charge of a governor. He

was watchful enough to see that internal rebellions did not breakout. He was a capable administrator and a just ruler.

Fourteen Sultans ruled over the Bahmani kingdom. The Vijayanagar Empire had risen up in the Deccan before the Bahmani kingdom came into existence. It was a Hindu kingdom. The Bahmani Sultans were frequently at war with Vijayanagar Empire.

Ahmad Shah ruled over the Bahmani kingdom from 1422 to 1435 A.D. He changed his capital from Gulbarga to **Bidar**. It enjoyed a healthy climate.

After Ahmed Shah, Muhammad Shah III was one of the most powerful kings of the Bahmani Kingdom.

The Kingdom was at the height of its glory and fame under this Sultan. This was mainly due to the greatness of the Sultan's Chief Minister, **Muhammad Gawan.** Gawan had a rare intellect. He was a skilful diplomat. He was loyal to the Sultan. He was a Persian noble. Though he had wide powers, he used them not for his own good, but for the good of his people. He subdued the rulers of the Konkan. He seized several forts and towns. It was during his ministership that Kancheepuram was attacked. Muhammad Gawan fought against Vijayanagar and won Goa from it.

Muhammad Gawan was fond of learning. He sought the company of learned men. He maintained

a fine college and big library at Bidar. It was during his time that **Athanasius Nikitin,** a Russian merchant, visited Bidar.

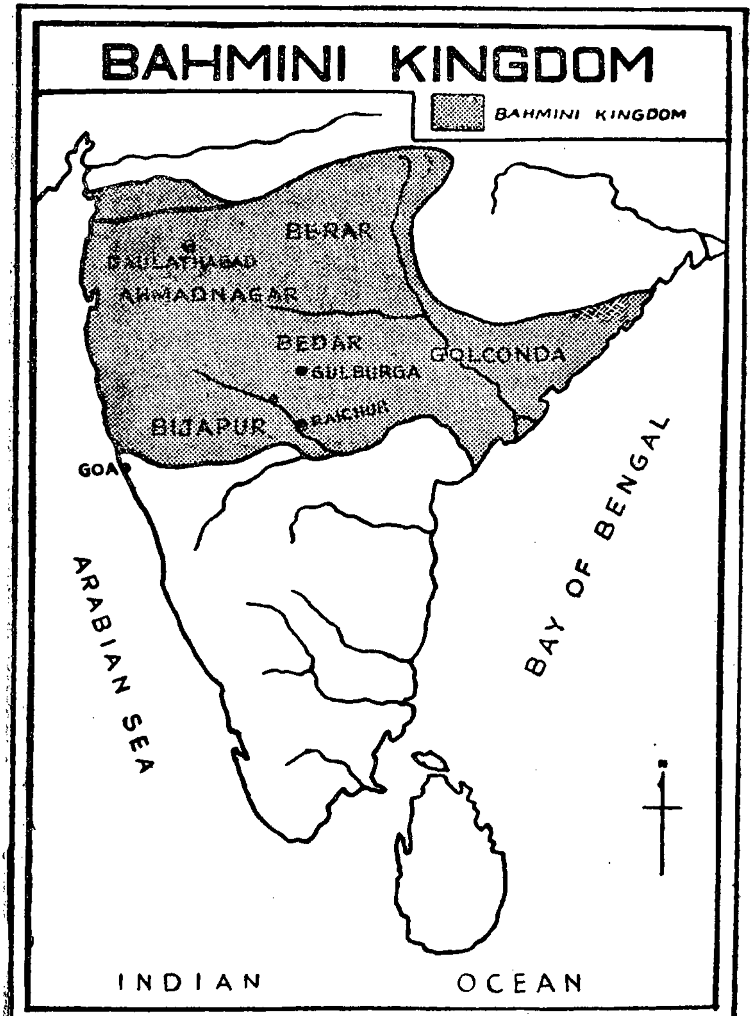


Fig. 28. Bahmini Kingdom

Muhammad Gawan was a Persian Muslim. The Indian Muslims in the court of the Bahmani sultan grew jealous of him. The nobles accused him of being a traitor to his king. The king who was in a drunken state believed their words and ordered the execution of Gawan. Some time later Muhammad Shah III realised his mistake. But it was too late. In 1482 A.D. Muhammad Shah III died a grief-stricken man.

After the death of Muhammad Shah III, the Bahmani kingdom declined in power. It broke into five small Sultanates namely **Bijapur, Golconda, Ahmadnagar, Bidar** and **Berar.**

Art and Architecture in the Bahmani Kingdom

The sultans of Bahmani kingdom improved the irrigation system in order to improve agriculture. They dug canals and wells. The Bahmani sultans built strong forts. A composite mixture of such elements as Indian, Turkish, Egyptian and Persian architechure is found in the buildings, built by the kings of the Bahmani kingdom. The Jami Masjid at Gulbarga, the Chand Minar at Daulatabad and the college of Muhammad Gawan at Bidar are all examples of architectural splendour of the Bahmani sultanate. The **Golgumba** at Bijapur is another example of Bahmani architecture.

THE VIJAYANAGAR EMPIRE (1336–1565 A.D.)

Sangama and Saluva Dynasties

In the history of Medieval India, we find that there existed a great kingdom in South India. It was

the Vijayanagar kingdom. The Vijayanagar kingdom was established to check Muslim advance in South India and to protect the Hindu Dharma. In 1336, A.D. **Harihara** and **Bukka**, two Sangama brothers, founded the Vijayanagar city on the banks of the Tungabhadra. They founded it on the advice of their teacher, sage **Vidyaranya**.

The Vijayanagar Kingdom did service for the Hindu religion and culture for over two hundred years. It also prevented the extension of influence of the Bahmani Kingdom and its five offshoots in the South.

The Vijayanagar Kingdom was first ruled by the **Sangama** dynasty. Harihara and then Bukka ruled it. They brought many *principalities under their rule. Afterwards the Kingdom was ruled by **Harihara II.** He extended his rule as far south as Tiruchirapalli.

Virupaksha was the last king of the Sangama dynasty. He was a weak ruler. Confusion and unrest prevailed in the country. Taking advantage of this situation, **Narasimha Saluva** of Chandragiri deposed his worthless king and ascended the throne of Vijayanagar. During his six years' rule, he recovered most of the provinces that had revolted. The last king of the Saluva dynasty was deposed by **Vira Narasimha** who belonged to the Tuluva dynasty. In 1506 A.D. he became the King. Of the rulers of the Tuluva dynasty, **Krishnadeva Raya** was the greatest.

**principality* : State ruled by a prince

Tuluva dynasty-Krishnadeva Raya (1509-1530 A.D.)

Krishnadeva Raya was one of the most famous kings in the history of India. He won almost all the wars that he fought. Mysore came under his control. He conquered the Raichur Doab from the Sultan of Bijapur. He invaded Orissa and made conquests of Udayagiri and Kondavidu. His empire extended from the South Konkan in the West to Vizagapatnam in the east.

Krishnadeva Raya maintained friendly relations with the Portuguese. Trade between the Portuguese and Vijayanagar was brisk.

Krishnadeva Raya was a scholar. He was the author of some literary works. He was a patron of learning. In his court there were eight scholars known as **Ashtadiggajas**. He built a number of temples. To put it briefly, the Vijayanagar Empire reached the *zenith of its glory during his reign. Krishnadeva Raya died in 1530 A.D..

Battle of Talikota (1565)

Achyuta Raya succeeded Krishnadeva Raya. After him, **Sadasiva Raya** ruled the empire. **Rama Raya** was the minister of Sadasiva Raya. It was Rama Raya who really governed the country. He interfered in the internal affairs of the Deccan Sultanates. Some time later all the Sultans except the sultan of Berar joined together and fought against Vijayanagar at **Talikota** in 1565 A.D. The Vijayanagar army was defeated. The army of the Sultans destroyed the city of Vijayanagar.

**zenith :* Highest point.

Economic Condition of the Vijayanagar Empire

The Vijayanagar Empire was prosperous. Agriculture flourished. Irrigation facilities were provided.

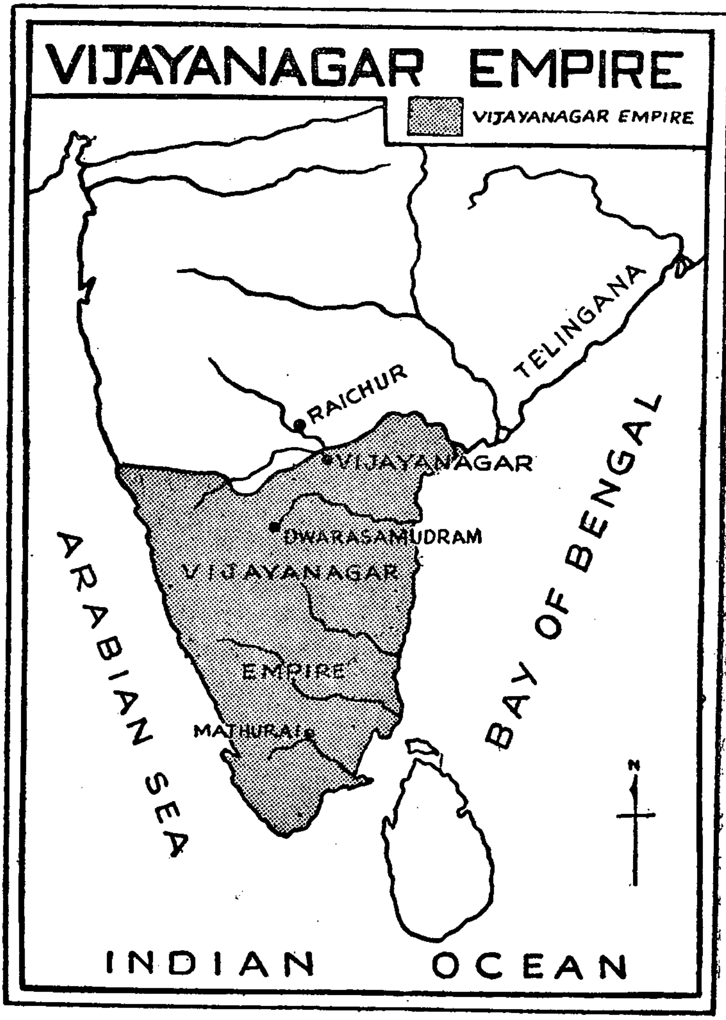


Fig. 29. Vijayanagar Empire

The Chief industries related to textiles, mining and metals. There was a remarkable growth of inland

and overseas trade. Calicut on the Malabar sea coast was an important port. The Vijayanagar Empire traded with Burma, Malaya, China, Arabia, Persia and Portugal.

Land revenue was the chief source of income for the Vijayanagar Empire. People paid taxes to the state both in cash and in *kind.

Art and Literature under Vijayanagar

The foreign travellers who visited India during the 15th and 16th centuries had spoken in praise of the Vijayanagar Empire.

The Vijayanagar Emperors were patrons of the languages, Telugu, Sanskrit, Kannada and Tamil. Under their care, fine pieces of literature were produced.

The rule of Krishnadeva Raya opened a new era in the history of literature in South India. Krishnadeva Raya wrote 'Amuktamalyada' the story of Sri Andal in Telugu. The plays 'Jambavathy Kalyanam' and 'Usha Parinayam' were written in Sanskrit by Krishnadeva Raya. His court was adorned by eight great poets. They were the 'Ashtadiggajas'. Of them Allasani Peddana held a high position. He was the poet laureate of Krishnadeva Raya.

The Vijayanagar kings partronised fine arts such as painting, music and dancing. Architecture was at its best in those times. Mantapas and temples containing a large number of beautiful sculptures were

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**kind*: Payment made in goods or natural produce.

built. The **Hazara Ramaswami Temple** built at Vijayanagar by Krishnadeva Raya is a fine specimen of Hindu temple architecture. The Emperor also built the beautiful **Vittalaswami Temple** at Vijaya-

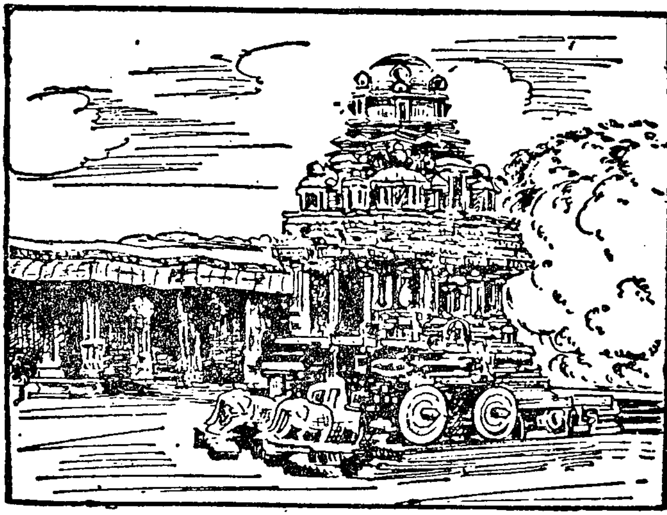


Fig. 30. The Vittalaswami temple

nagar. He built a new town called **Nagalpur** (modern Hospet). The sculptures now found in ruins at Humpi speak gloriously of the greatness of the Vijayanagar Empire.

Exercises

Give detailed answers

1. Explain the geatness of Muhammad Gawan.
2. Explain the greatness of Krishnadeva Raya.
3. What was the contribution made to art and literature by the Vijayanagar Empire ?

II. Give short answers

1. What was the first capital of the Bahmani Kingdom? What was the later capital?
2. Who founded the city of Vijayanagar? When was it founded and why?
3. Who was the minister of Sadasiva Raya?

III. Answer whether the statements given below are right or wrong

If the statement is found to be right, put the ' ✓ ' mark or if the statement is found to be wrong, put the 'X' mark in the brackets given on the right side.

1. Ala-ud-din Bahman Shah founded the Bahmani Kingdom. ( )
2. Harihara and Bukka founded the Vijayanagar city on the banks of the Krishna. ( )
3. The Battle of Talikota took place in A.D. 1565. ( )
4. The 'Navaratnas' adorned the court of Krishnadeva Raya. ( )

IV. Do it yourself

1. On the outline map of India show the extent of Bahmani Kingdom.
2. On the outline map of India show the extent of Vijiaya nagar Empire.
3. See the exhibits relating to the Vijayanagar Empire kept in the museum.

CHAPTER XVII

THE MOGHUL EMPIRE (1526-1707 A.D.)

BABUR (1526—1530 A.D.)

Early Life of Babur

Babur was a descendent of the Mongol Chengiz Khan on his mother's side and of the Tartar Timur on his father's side. He became the ruler of the principality of Farghana in A.D. 1494. He lost it soon. Faced with a number of difficulties in his early life, Babur developed the virtues of heroism and bravery. After he had left Farghana, Babur was leading the life of a wanderer with a small force. He captured Kabul and became its ruler.

At that time, Delhi was ruled by Ibrahim Lodi who had many enemies. He did not treat his nobles with respect. He ruled his kingdom in a tyrannical way. **Daulat Khan Lodi,** the governor of the Punjab, invited Babur to invade India.

First Battle of Panipat 1526

Babur had an idea of conquering India. He complied with the request of Daulat Khan Lodi and invaded India. Babur met Ibrahim Lodi on the historic battlefield of **Panipat** in 1526 A.D. Ibrahim Lodi came at the head of a big army. Babur won the battle. Ibrahim Lodi was defeated and killed. It was in this battle that guns were used for the first time in India. Babur used guns. The first Battle of

Panipat enabled Babur to lay the foundations of the Moghul Empire in India.

Babur's victory over Rana Sanga, Kanwaha 1527

The victory of Panipat enabled Babur to caputre Delhi and Agra. The Rajputs did not submit to the authority of Babur. They were led by Rana Sanga, a great leader. He was the hero of Rajput National Revival. Led by Rana Sanga, they resisted Babur at Kanwaha, a place situated west of Agra. This battle was fought in 1527 A.D. The Rajputs were defeated.

The Battle of Gogra 1529

The Afghans in the provinces of Bengal and Bihar gave a lot of trouble to Babur. Babur met the Afghans near the junction of the Gogra with the Ganges above Patna 1529. The Afghans were completely defeated. The Moghul Empire was firmly established in India after this battle.

Babur's Love for Literature

Babur died in 1530 A.D. He brought a great part of North India under Moghul rule during the four years of his stay in our country, but was not able to organise the conquered territories. Besides being a great warrior, he was an accomplished poet. He composed fine verses in Persian. He made a mark in his native Turki language. He wrote his autobiography in Turki. It is known as 'Babur Nama'. It is considered as one of the best historical works. It contains an excellent description of the natural scenery in India and its fauna and flora.

HUMAYUN (1530–1540) & (1555–1556)

Humayun's difficulties

Humayun, the eldest son of Babur, ascended the throne of Delhi after his father's death. He had to face a lot of difficulties. The Afghan menace in Bihar and Bengal was great. Bahadur Shah was his opponent in Gujarat in the south. Humayun's younger brothers gave him a lot of trouble.

Humayun and Sher Shah

The Afghans rebelled against him in the east. Sher Khan, an Afghan, became the leader of the Afghans of Bihar and Bengal. Humayun marched to the east at the head of an army to suppress the Afghan danger. When Humayun was in Bengal. Sher Khan conquered Moghul territories in Bihar. So Humayun set off to Agra. On the way he was opposed by Sher Khan. Sher Khan defeated Humayun at **Chaunsa** near Buxar in 1539 A.D. A battle was fought the next year between the Afghans and the Moghuls at **Kanauj.** Sher Khan inflicted a crushing defeat on Humayun. Humayun fled from the country. Sher Shah captured Agra and Delhi and crowned himself as the ruler of Delhi.

Humayun's Restoration

Humayun wandered from place to place seeking assistance and shelter. His brothers did not offer him any help. He went to Sind. A son was born to Humayun in 1542 A.D. at Amarkot in Sind. He was Akbar. At last Humayun reached Persia. The Persian King offered him assistance by giving him a force. Humayun started to conquer Hindustan in 1554 A.D.

In the meantime Sher Shah had died. Incompetent rulers ruled at Delhi. Humayun captured Lahore. He defeated **Sikandar Sur** in a battle at **Sirhind** and ascended the throne of Delhi. But he did not live long. He died on 24th January, 1556 as a result of an accidental fall from the staircase of his library.

SHER SHAH (1540–1545 A.D.)

His Rise to power

Sher Khan or Sher Shah Sur was the son of an Afghan leader belonging to the Sur tribe in Bihar. His original name was **Farid.** Farid killed a tiger single-handed in a hunting excursion. So he earned the title of 'Sher Khan', or 'Tiger-lord'. He gradually built up his power and brought Bihar under his authority. Then he established his authority over Bengal also.

Sher Shah gained a victory over Humayun at **Chaunsa.** In 1540 A.D., he defeated the Moghul ruler at **Kanauj** and drove him out of the country. He ascended the throne of Delhi and established the rule of the Sur Dynasty.

Sher Shah ruled from 1540 to 1545 A.D. He brought the whole of North India under his control. He besieged the fort of Kalinjar in 1545 A.D. There he died as a result of an accidental explosion of gun powder. He ruled only for a short period. Still he brought about many reforms and earned a great name in the history of India.

His Reforms

Administrative Reforms : Sher Shah was not only a warrior but he was also a great administrator.

He divided his empire into forty-seven sarkars. Each sarkar was divided into many parganas. The pargana was divided into several villages. The village formed the basic unit of Sher Shah's administration. He transferred the officers every three years in order to check their influence. Every branch of administration was subject to his personal supervision.

Land Revenue Administration : Sher Shah's land revenue reforms are praiseworthy. Akbar the great followed his revenue administration. All the lands in his empire were measured. A classification of the lands was made. It was based on their fertility and yield. Then the land revenue was settled. There was direct contact between the State and the cultivators. The cultivators had to pay to the State one-third of their average produce as land tax. The tax was payable either in kind or in cash. The revenue officials were instructed to be lenient at the time of fixing the land tax but strict at the time of collection of revenues.

Currency Reforms : Sher Shah effected currency reforms in order to improve the economic condition of the people. Silver coins were issued in his name. Each coin had a fixed weight. Sher Shah is regarded as the 'Father of the Rupee of to-day'.

Other Reforms : Sher Shah improved the system of communications. For the purpose of defence of his kingdom and for the convenience of the people, he connected the important places of his kingdom by a number of roads. Roads were laid between Agra and Burhanpur and Agra and Jodhpur.

A road ran from Agra to the fort of Chitore. Sher Shah planted shade giving trees on both sides of well-laid roads. He built resthouses for the accommodation of travellers. An efficient system of secret service functioned. The Police system was reorganised. Sher Shah made arrangements for horse-post. Mails were carried by horsemen. He was a just ruler. He administered justice in an impartial way. Sher Shah maintained an efficient army. It was highly disciplined. The soldiers were recruited under his personal supervision. He had an efficient cavalry force. He followed the practice of branding of horses to prevent fraud. *Garrisons were maintained at important places in the country. The military officers were transferred frequently. Emperor Akbar followed many measures of Sher Shah Sur in governing the country. So Sher Shah is called as the 'Forerunner of Akbar'. Sher Shah was really a great ruler in Medieval India.

AKBAR THE GREAT (1556–1605 A.D.)

Akbar was the most famous of the Moghul Emperors. He was thirteen at the time of Humayun's death. Akbar became the king in 1556 A.D. As he was very young, **Bairam Khan** became his guardian and ruled the kingdom.

The Fight for the throne-Second Battle of Panipat (1556 A.D.)

Hemu was the minister and general of Adil Shah Sur. He thought of destroying the Moghuls and establishing a Hindu kingdom in North India. So he

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**Garrisons:* Troops stationed to defend places

opposed Akbar. He occupied Agra and Delhi. He met Akbar and Bairam Khan at the historic field of **Panipat** in 1556 A.D. He was defeated and killed in the battle of Panipat. This was the Second Battle of Panipat. The Moghul rule was firmly established on account of Akbar's victory. Akbar was under the protection of Bairam Khan till he attained the age of eighteen. Then he began to rule the kingdom independently.

Akbar's Conquests-Expansion of the Moghul empire

Akbar was a bold warrior. He was dashing and daring. He wanted to extend his empire. So he followed a policy of conquest. He won Malwa and Gondwana. **Queen Durgavati,** the ruler of Gondwana, was a gallant Rajput lady. She resisted Akbar boldly and died. Then Akbar fought against the Rajputs led by **Udai Singh,** and defeated them. But **Rana Pratap Singh**, son of Udai Singh, retired to the Aravalli Hills and fought against Akbar till his death. He was the only Rajput Chief who did not submit to Akbar. Akbar conquered Gujarat, Bihar and Bengal.

After these conquests, Akbar added Kabul, Kandahar, Kashmir and Sind to his empire. Having consolidated his authority over Central and Northern India, Akbar desired to extend his rule over the Deccan. Kandesh was annexed. Akbar laid siege to Ahmadnagar. Ahmadnagar was then ruled by **Chand Bibi**, a lady of valour. She was killed by her own people. Akbar captured Ahmadnagar and made it a part of his empire. Berar came under his rule. The

empire of Akbar extended from the Himalayas in the north to Berar and Ahmadnagar in the south and

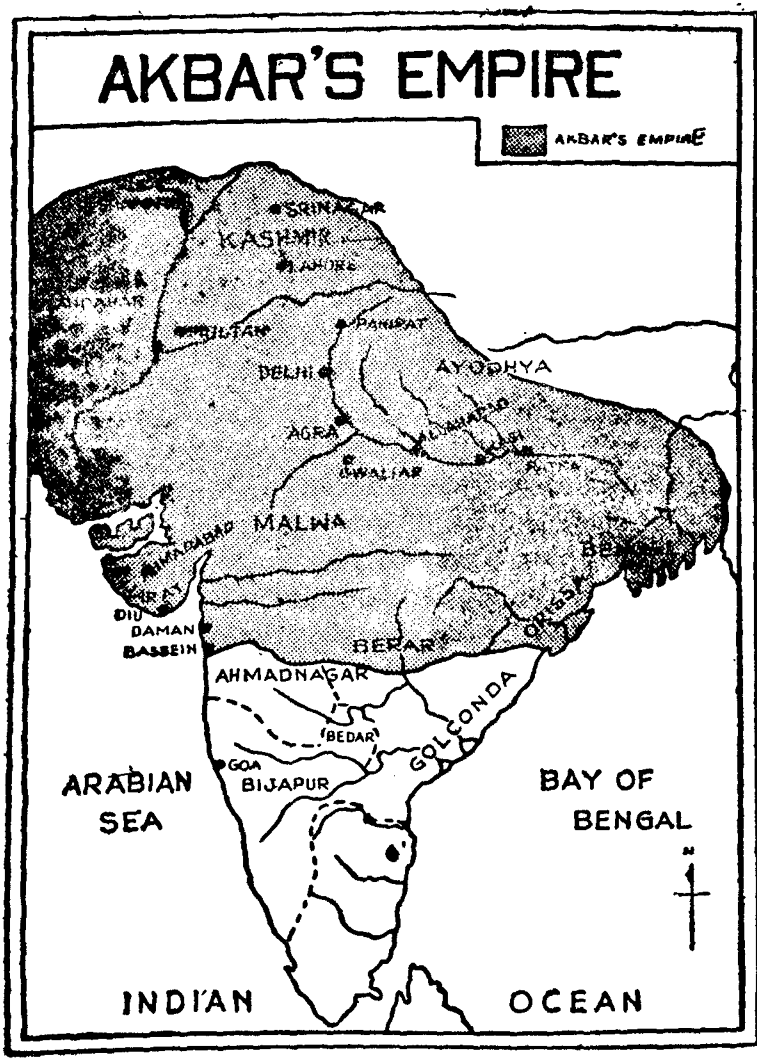


Fig. 31. Akbar's Empire

from the Hindukush and Kandahar in the west to Bengal in the east.

Akbar's Government

Akbar divided his vast empire into 15 Subahs or Provinces. The Subahdar was the head of administration in the subah. Each subah was divided into Sarkars. Each sarkar was divided into several parghanas and villages. The village officer was in charge of village affairs.

Emperor Akbar was at the head of the administration of his vast empire. He had absolute powers. He was aided by a council of ministers in governing the country.

Akbar maintained a fine army. The **Mansabdari** system was followed. The Mansabdars were paid salaries according to the number of horses and soldiers they supplied to the Emperor. Akbar's military force consisted of cavalry, infantry and artillery. The cavalry was the most important. **Raja Bhagwan Das** and **Raja Man Singh,** the famous Rajput warriors, were his generals.

Land Revenue System

Raja Todar Mall, the Divan of Akbar, introduced land revenue reforms which were based upon Sher Shah's system. All cultivable lands were surveyed and measured. They were classified. The cultivator paid one-third of his produce to the State as land tax. He was allowed to pay the tax either in cash or in kind. There was direct contact between the cultivator and the State. The land tax was either reduced or not collected in times of floods and famines. The collector was directed to be a friend of the agriculturist.

Akbar and the Hindus

Akbar governed his empire as a National Monarch. He treated the Muslims and Hindus alike The king realised the importance of securing the co-operation of the Rajputs. Akbar abolished the Jizya levied on all the Hindus. He entered into marriage alliances with the Rajputs. He appointed the Hindus to high posts in civil and military administration.

Akbar's Religion: Din-i-Ilahi

Akbar did not follow a narrow religious policy. In order to find out the Truth, Akbar held religious discussions with wise men of several religions in his palace at **Fatehpur Sikri**. In 1582 A.D., he founded a new religion. This religion was known as the Din-i-Ilahi or Divine Faith. It contained the essence of all religions, but this religion disappeared after his death.

Social Reforms

Akbar sought to check child-marriage. He attempted to curb the practice of giving and receiving dowry. He encouraged widow-remarriage. He tried to put an end to the evil practice of Sati prevalent among the Hindus. The king banned animal sacrifice and *cow-slaughter.

The greatness of Akbar's Rule

Akbar was a great warrior. He was a famous administrator. He is considered to be one of the most famous Emperors in world history. Akbar ruled over a vast empire for a long period. Peace

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**cow-slaughter :* killing of cows at once.

prevailed in the country. He won the affection and support of all sections of the people. Trade and industry flourished. There was a remarkable growth of handicrafts. He followed a policy of religious toleration. He was deeply interested in literature and painting. Akbar built many buildings. He built a new city called Fatehpur Sikri to celebrate the conquest of Gujarat and beautified it by building many beautiful buildings. Wise men adorned his court. Such wise men as Abul Fazl and Abul Faizi, Raja Todar Mall, the Divan, Raja Birbal, the wit and the court-jester and Mian Tansen, a great musician, adorned his court. Abul Fazl was the author of 'Akbar Nama' and 'Ain-i-Akbari'. Akbar Nama gives us a history of the life of Akbar. Ain-i-Akbari gives us an account of Akbar's administration. Abul Faizi was a famous Persian poet. Tulsidas, the famous writer, who wrote the Ramayana in Hindi, lived during the reign of Akhar.



Fig. 32. Akbar

Akbar's last days were miserable. Salim, the eldest son of Akbar, rebelled against his father. He was responsible for putting an end to the life of Abul

Fazl, a close friend of Akbar. The emperor was struck with grief. Akbar died in 1605 A.D.

JAHANGIR (1605–1627 A.D.)

Prince Salim, who succeeded his father, was known as Jahangir. In 1611 A D., he married Nur Jahan, a lady of extraordinary beauty. Nur Jahan was a highly intelligent and shrewd lady. She exercised much influence over the emperor and governed the country in the name of the Moghul Emperor. It was during Jahangir's reign that two Englishmen, **Sir Thomas Roe** and **Hawkings,** came to his court. They requested the Moghul Emperor to grant them permission to establish trade settlements in India.

SHAH JAHAN (1627–1658 A.D.)

After the death of Jahangir, his son **Khurram** with the title of Shah Jahan, ascended the throne of Delhi in 1627 A.D.

Shah Jahan and the Deccan States

Shah Jahan desired to bring the Deccan States under his rule. Ahmadnagar was annexed to the Moghul Empire. He made the sultans of Bijapur and Golkonda submit to his authority and pay tribute to him. He appointed his son Aurangazeb as Viceroy of the Moghul Deccan. Peace prevailed in the Deccan owing to the viceroy's ability.

War of Succession

Shah Jahan had four sons. **Dara Shukoh** was his eldest son. Shah Jahan loved him very much. Dara Shukoh was near his father. **Shuja** was the second

son of Shah Jahan. He was the viceroy of Bengal. **Aurangazeb** was the third son of the emperor. He was serving as the viceroy of the Deccan. **Murad** was the fourth son of the Moghul Emperor. He was the viceroy of Gujarat. Shah Jahan fell ill in 1657 A.D.

Each son wanted to become the king. When Aurangazeb heard of the illness of his father he left the Deccan for the North to fight for the throne. Aurangazeb was a cunning man. Joining hands with his younger brother Murad, Aurangazeb defeated Dara Shukoh. He imprisoned his father. He removed Murad from his path by his cunningness. Aurangazeb defeated Shuja and made him flee from Bengal. Thus Aurangazeb crushed his opponents and became the Moghul Emperor. Shah Jahan, the Moghul Emperor, remained in the Agra Fort for 8 years till his death in 1666.

The Greatness of Shah Jahan's Reign

The Moghul Empire reached its zenith during the reign of Shah Jahan. Shah Jahan was a great builder. Many of his buildings, palaces, forts, parks and mosques are found at places like Agra, Delhi and Lahore. He built a new city called **Shahjahanabad** near Delhi. He built the Red Fort in that city. The **Jumma Masjid** of Delhi and the **Pearl Masjid** at Agra were built by him.

Mumtaz was Shah Jahan's beloved wife. She led her happy life with the Moghul Emperor for nineteen years and died in 1631 A.D. He built a beautiful marble building called the Taj Mahal over her grave.

on the banks of the Yamuna in Agra. He built the **Taj Mahal** in memory of his wife. It stands today as one of the wonders of the world.

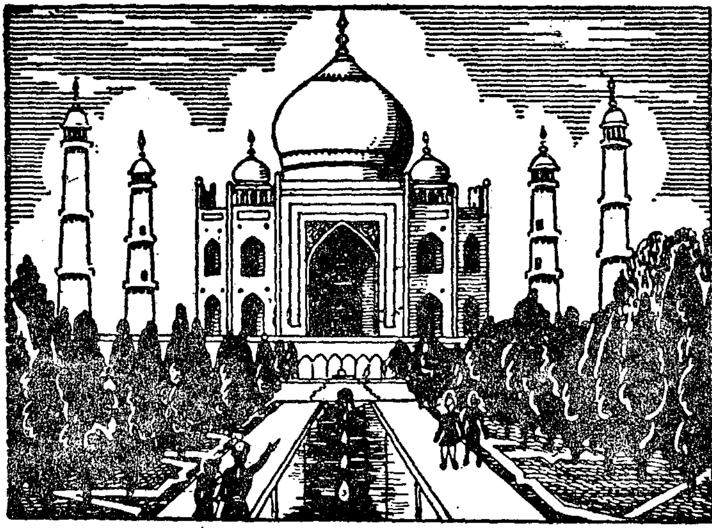


Fig. 33. Taj Mahal at Agra

Shah Jahan made for himself a Peacock Throne. It was made of gold and studded with gems.

AURANGAZEB (1658 - 1707 A.D.)

Aurangazeb's Character

Aurangazeb became the ruler of Delhi in 1658 A.D. He ruled for nearly fifty years. He was a good Muslim. He followed the principles of Islam and led a life of simplicity. The only defects of his character were that the religious tolerance and diplomatic skill that had been found in Akbar were not found in Aurangazeb.

Aurangazeb's relations with the Hindus

The Moghul Empire was a big one. People following different faiths lived in it. A majority of the people were Hindus. Aurangzeb was not a National Monarch like Akbar. He considered it his sacred duty to rule as a Muslim monarch. He ordered that the Hindus should not build new temples without his permission. He instructed that temple festivals should not be celebrated. He destroyed the famous temples of Kasi, Mathura and Somnath. He built mosques in those places. He reimposed the Jizya on the Hindus.



Fig. 34. Aurangazeb

Aurangazeb and the Rajputs were not on friendly terms. The Rajput chiefs hated the Emperor.

Relations with the Sikhs

Aurangazeb hated the Sikhs. He asked **Tegh Bahadur,** the ninth Guru of the Sikhs, to embrace Islam. Tegh Bahadur refused to do so. Aurangazeb executed him. Thereupon **Guru Govind Singh,** the son of Tegh Bahadur and the tenth Guru of the Sikhs, made the Sikh community become a militant community. The Sikhs became the enemies of the Moghuls as a result of Aurangazeb's intolerance.

Aurangazeb and the Deccan

The Marathas under **Shivaji** had set up a Hindu kingdom in Maharashtra. Aurangazeb sent

Shaista Khan and **Jai Singh** to crush Shivaji. But the attempts were unsuccessful. Bijapur and Golconda befriended the Marathas. Aurangazeb personally led a big army to the Deccan to suppress the two sultanates of Bijapur and Golconda. He defeated the sultons of those States. He annexed Bijapur and Golconda. Aurangazeb's Empire extended to South India.

Then the Moghul army attacked the Marathas. Shivaji had died in the meantime. Sambaji, the son of Shivaji, was taken a prisoner and later he was put to death. But still Aurangazeb could not suppress the Marathas, as they followed guerilla warfare.

Aurangazeb died at Ahmadnagar in 1707 A.D.

The Downfall of the Moghul Empire

(i) Aurangazeb was partly responsible for the downfall of the Moghul Empire. He made the Hindus who formed the majority of the population his enemies. He did not show his love and extend his support to the Rajputs. He was not on friendly terms with the Jats, the Sikhs and the Marathas. He annexed the Sultanates of Bijapur and Golkunda. So the Marathas became very powerful in the Deccan. His Deccan wars drained his treasury. He stayed in the Deccan for a long period of time. Administration at Delhi was therefore not efficient. There was confusion in the capital.

(ii) The successors of Aurangazeb were not able rulers. Wars of succession took place. All these led to the downfall of the empire.

(iii) The Moghul Empire was a vast empire. The transport system had not developed much in those

days. The Central Government could not administer a big empire effectively. The size of the Empire proved to be its weakness.

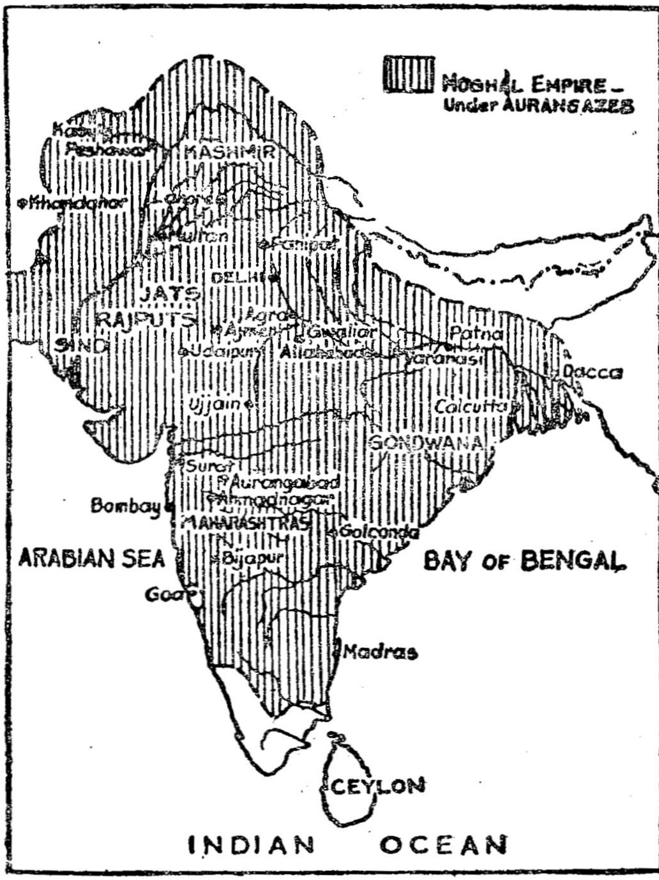


Fig. 35. Moghul Empire-Under Aurangazeb

(iv) The Moghul army remained in India for a long period of time. The army lost its efficiency due to luxury and ease. It could not defend a vast empire.

(v) The foreign invasions that took place after Aurangazeb destroyed the Moghul Empire. In 1739 A.D., Nadir Shah, the king of Persia, invaded India. He plundered Delhi. The Third Battle of Panipat took place in 1761 A.D. This gave a severe shock to the Moghul Empire. The Europeans particularly the English took advantage of the divisions in the country and contributed to the overthrow of the Empire.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Give an account of Babur.
2. How did Sher Shah become the king? Mention his administrative reforms.
3. What were the conquests of Akbar?
4. Describe the civil and military administration of Akbar.
5. Mention the causes for the downfall of the Moghul Empire.

II. Give short answers

1. Between whom was the First Battle of Panipat fought and when?
2. Who were the two warrior queens that resisted Akbar?
3. Mention the name of the religion founded by Akbar.
4. Why is Shah Jahan called the 'Magnificient Builder'?

III. Fill in the blanks

1. Babur wrote 'Babur Nama' in———language.
2. Akbar built———, a new city near Agra to celebrate the conquest of Gujarat.
3. ——— was the Sikh Guru who was executed by Aurangazeb.

IV. Choose the best answer

1. Akbar is regarded as a great king because
   (a) he expanded the Moghul Empire
   (b) he ruled as a National Monarch
   (c) he founded the Din-i-Ilahi
   (d) he built Fatehpur Sikri

V. Do it yourself

1. On the outline map of India, mark the extent of Akbar's Empire.
2. On the outline map of India, mark the extent of Aurangazeb's Empire and indicate the following places: Delhi, Lahore, Kashmir, Bijapur and Golkunda.
3. Collect the pictures of the Moghul buildings such as Jumma Masjid, Red Fort, Pearl Masjid and Taj Mahal.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE RISE AND GROWTH OF THE MARATHA POWER

The Rise of the Marathas

It may be said that the rise of the Maratha power in the second half of the seventeenth century A.D. was a turning point in Indian History. The Marathas were mainly responsible for the decline of the Moghul Empire.

The Maratha country in the 16th century consisted of the north-western part of the Deccan including Nasik, Poona, Satara and Sholapur districts as well as a part of the Konkan coast. The Geography of Maharashtra had a great deal to do in shaping the character and history of the Marathas. The Vindhya and the Satpura ranges that run from east to westin the north and western mountain ranges that run from north to south served as the defence lines of the Maratha kingdom. The Narmada and the Tapti provided protection to the Maratha region. Several hill-forts also provided protection. The north-western part of Maharashtra was not a fertile region. The soil was unproductive. The region received poor rainfall. So, the Marathas developed the virtues of self-reliance, courage, hard work, simplicity and social equality.

Religious reformers like **Ekanath, Tukaram and Ramdas** preached the doctrines of devotion to God,

equality of men before God and the dignity of labour. Ramdas was the Guru of Shivaji. His fellow countrymen held him in high respect. Devotional songs were composed in Marathi by the religious reformers. These songs helped to inspire the minds of the people with high ideals. By serving the Sultanates of the Deccan, the Marathas gained experience in political and military administration. In the seventeenth century, there arose a great leader to unite such men and to establish a Hindu kingdom in the Deccan. He was Shivaji.

SHIVAJI (1627–1680 A.D.)

Early Life

Shivaji has a place of honour not only in the history of the Marathas, but also in the history of India. Shivaji was born in the hill-fort of **Shivner** in 1627 A.D. **Shahji** was his father. His mother was **Jija Bai**. She used to tell stories of heroism and devotion to God from the 'Ramayana' and the 'Mahabaratha' to Shivaji when he was a child. These stories made a deep impression on his mind. They roused his heroic spirit. The teachings of Ramdas made Shivaji love his religion. **Dadaji Khonddev**, his teacher trained Shivaji in fighting, riding and other arts.



Fig. 36. Shivaji

Conquests: Capture of Forts

Shivaji grew into a gallant warrior. He made friends with the hillmen of Maharashtra. The young men among them later became Shivaji's soldiers. His heredity and the influence of his early training and environment created in the mind of the young Shivaji the desire to establish an independent Hindu kingdom and rule it. At that time, the Deccan Sultanates were quarrelling with one another and were weak. The Moghuls were engaged in campaigns in the north. Shivaji strengthened his own army without the knowledge of others. He *acquired many forts like **Torna** and **Raigarh**.

Afzal Khan

Shivaji's growing strength alarmed the Sultan of Bijapur. The Sultan wanted to *subdue Shivaji. Hence he sent a large force under the command of **Afzal Khan** in 1658 A.D. Afzal Khan sent word to say that he would like to meet Shivaji privately as a friend. Shivaji doubted his motive. This put Shivaji on the alert and he decided to meet craft with craft. Afzal Khan had hidden a dagger in his dress. He was a tall and *hefty person. Shivaji was short. Shivaji wore armour beneath his dress. He had hidden a weapon with sharp and thick steel nails known as the 'Tiger's claw'. While pretending to embrace Shivaji, Afzal Khan tried to kill Shivaji with his dagger. He did not succeed in his attempt. Shivaji pierced the body of Afzal Khan with steel claws and

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**acquired* : gained
**subdue* : to bring under control
**hefty* : strongly built

killed him. Having lost its general, the Bijapur army was completely defeated by the Marathas. The Marathas raided the kingdom of Bijapur and returned with rich treasure.

Shaista Khan

Aurangazeb was alarmed at the growth of the Maratha power under Shivaji. He appointed **Shaista Khan** as the Viceroy of the Deccan and asked him to crush Shivaji. Shaista Khan captured Poona. But Shivaji attacked Poona where Shaista Khanwas camping. It was a surprise attack. Shaista Khan lost one of his fingers and one of his sons. The Moghul soldiers fled for their lives. After this, Shivaji plundered Surat which was the trading settlement of the English East India Company.

Shivaji and Aurangazeb—Agra Adventure

Aurangazeb was greatly disappointed with Shaista Khan's defeat. At last, he sent the Rajput Jai Singh to invite Shivaji to Delhi. Jai Singh persuaded Shivaji to pay a visit to the Moghul court at Agra.

Shivaji and his son Sambhaji went to Agra in May, 1666. Shivaji was not treated well by Aurangazeb. Shivaji and Sambhaji were put in prison. By a clever trick both of them made good their escape and returned to their homeland.

The Coronation of Shivaji (1674 A.D.).

Shivaji crowned himself King of the Marathas at Raigarh in 1674 A.D. He called his kingdom 'Swaraj'. He took upon himself the title of 'Chhatrapati'.

Southern Expedition (1677–78 A.D.)

Shivaji invaded the south and annexed Tiruvannamalai, Gingi, Vellore and Tanjore.

· He died of illness in April, 1680. He was fifty-three at the time of his death.

Shivaji's Administration

Shivaji was not only a brave warrior but also a great administrator. He was assisted by a council of eight ministers. The council was known as the **Ashtapradhan**. It served as an advisory council. The Prime Minister was called the **Peshwa**.

Shivaji divided his kingdom into three provinces. Each province was divided into many districts. Each district was sub-divided into villages. The village formed the lowest unit of the kingdom.

Lands were measured. Then land revenue was fixed. The cultivators paid 25 of their produce to the State as their dues. They paid the land tax either in cash or in kind. The cultivators were encouraged. Advance loans were granted to the cultivators to enable them to purchase seeds and cattle. Besides the land tax, two other taxes known as the **Chauth** which means 'one-fourth' and the **Sardeshmukhi** which means 'one-tenth' were collected. The area from which these taxes were collected was known as 'Mughlai'.

The organisation of the Maratha army reveals the military genius of Shivaji. Infantry and cavalry gained importance. Infantry formed a large part of his army.

The forts played an important part in the historyof the Marathas. They brought glory to the Marathas.

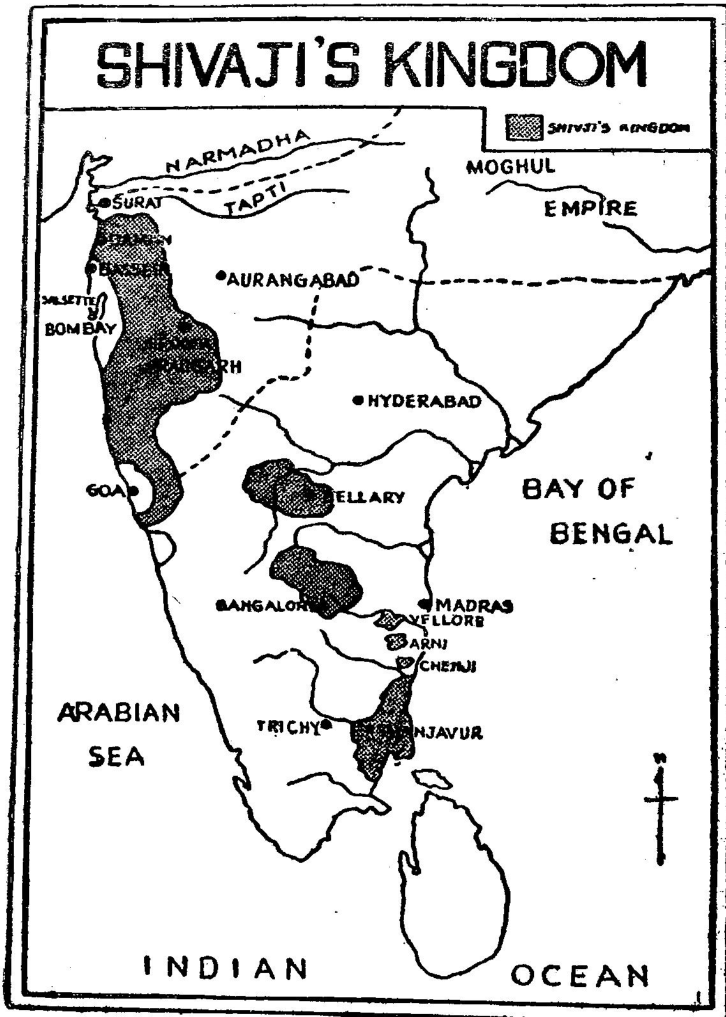


Fig. 37. Shivaji's Kingdom

Efficient soldiers were stationed in them. Shivaji also had a navy of 200 ships.

THE PESHWAS

On the death of Shivaji, his son, **Sambhaji** came to the throne. Aurangazeb captured and killed him. Sambhaji's son, **Sahu**, was taken to Delhi and brought up in the imperial palace. He was set free after the death of Aurangazeb. He became the ruler of the Marathas. But he was not a strong man. His country was actually ruled by **Peshwa Balaji Viswanath.** Balaji Viswanath was an able man. He put an end to the confusion prevailing then and restored order. **Baji Rao I** and **Balaji Baji Rao** who succeeded him were powerful men. Baji Rao I was the greatest of the Peshwas. Under him, the glory of the Marathas rose to great heights. The power of the Maratha Empire reached its zenith during the rule of Baji Rao.

The Fall of the Maratha Empire

The Marathas extended their influence in North India. In 1759 A.D. the Afghan King **Ahmad Shah Abdali** occupied the Punjab. The Marathas withdrew. Balaji Baji Rao collected a big army and sent it to North India to defeat the Afghans. Sadasiva Rao was its commander.

The Maratha army and the Afghans met on the field of Panipat in 1761 A.D. The Third Battle of Panipat has acquired historical importance. The Maratha army was defeated and the Maratha Empire declined.

Exercises

I. Give Detailed answers

1. There were several factors for the bravery and greatness of the Marathas. What were they?

2. How did Shivaji defeat Afzal Khan and Shaista Khan?
3. Explain the Agra incident.
4. Explain the administrative set-up of Shivaji.

II. Give Short answers

1. Mention the names of Shivaji's mother, father and Guru.
2. What was the name of Shivaji's council of ministers?
3. Who were the two most important of the Peshwas?
4. Between whom was the Third Battle of Panipat fought and when?

III. Do it yourself

1. On the Outline Map of India, mark the extent of the kingdom of Shivaji.
2. Write a drama depicting the meeting between Shivaji and Afzal Khan and enact it.

CHAPTER XIX

BUILDERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN INDIA

Introduction

There had been trade relations between India and the European countries from very ancient times. The trade was mostly carried on by land. South west Asia served as a bridge linking India with the European countries. In 1498 A D. **Vasco da gama**, an able Portuguese sailor, found out for the first time a sea route to India. Along the new sea route the Portuguese, Dutch, English and French came to our country.

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, a company of merchants called the East India Company was formed in 1600 A.D. in England. The East India Company secured trade concessions from the Indian kings and established trading centres in India. The English established their trading centres at Masulipatnam, Surat, Madras, Bombay, Calcutta, Dacca and Cassimbazar. Pondicherry, Mahe, Karaikal and Chandernagore were the trading centres of the French.

Acting according to the principle, **'Trade first, flag next'**, the English at first developed their **trade. Then they laid the foundations of an empire.**

ROBERT CLIVE

The English in the Carnatic

Robert Clive was the man who laid the foundation of the British rule in India. He worked as a clerk in the service of the East India Company in Madras. At that time, wars of succession to the thrones of Hyderabad and Carnatic broke out. **Nasir Jung** and **Muzaffar Jung** laid claim to the throne of Hyderabad. **Chanda Sahib** wanted to become the Nawab of the Carnatic. He sought the help of **Dupleix**, the French Governor of Pondicherry. Chanda Sahib and the French defeated and killed **Anwar-ud-din**, the Carnatic Nawab **Muhammad Ali**, the son of Anwar-ud-din, fled to Tiruchirappalli and hid in the fort there. Chanda Sahib became the Nawab of the Carnatic.

Muhammad Ali sought the assistance of the English. Chanda Sahib and the French besieged the fort of Tiruchirappalli Clive led a small army to Arcot, the capital of the Carnatic and captured it.

Chanda Sahib sent a big army under the leadership of his son to recover his capital. Clive defeated this army in 1751 A.D. and gained a great victory. Clive was called as 'the Hero of Arcot'. Then Clive and **General Lawrence** went to Tiruchirappalli defeated Chanda Sahib and made Muhammad Ali the Nawab of the Carnatic. Dupleix's high hopes were dashed to the ground. The influence of the English in the Carnatic increased.

The English in Bengal

Robert Clive returned to England in 1753 A.D. He came back to India in 1756 A.D. At that time

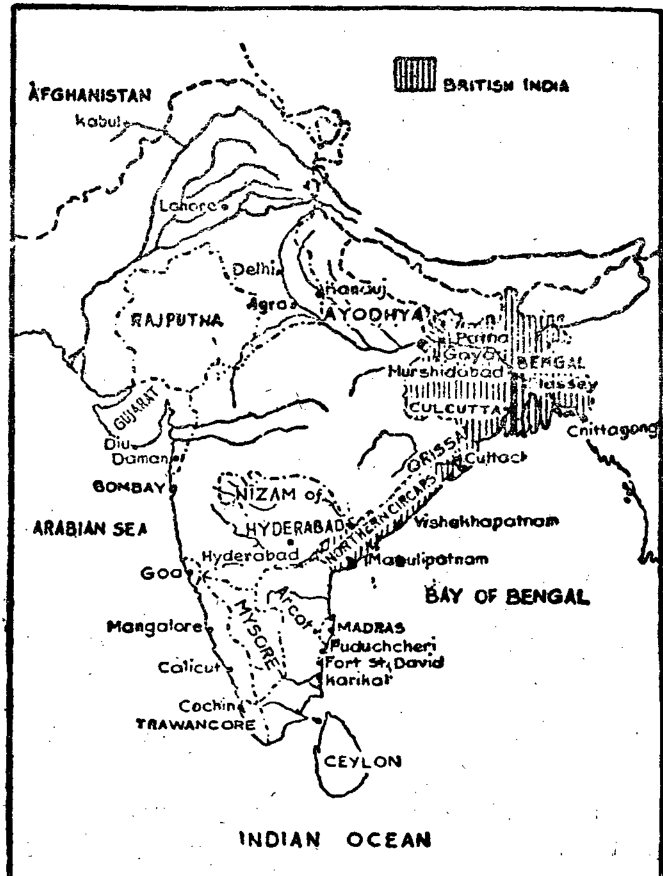


Fig. 38. British Territories in Clive's Time

Calcutta from the English. He hated the English. Clive led an army from Madras to Bengal. He took back Calcutta. Siraj-ud-daulah, secured the help of the French in 1757 A.D. Clive defeated Siraj-ud-daulah in the **Battle of Plassey** in 1757 A.D. **Mir Jafar**, the Commander-in-Chief of Siraj-ud-daulah, was made the Nawab of Bengal. As a result of the victory gained at Plassey, the English established their power in Bengal.

The English got twenty-four Parganas as a result of the Battle of Plassey. Mir Jafar gave large rewards to the English. The victory gained at Plassey laid the foundations of the British Empire in India.

Mir Jafar was not a capable ruler. Differences of opinion arose between the English and Mir Jafar. Mir Jafar was deposed. **Mir Kasim**, his son-in-law, was made the Nawab. The relations between the English and Mir Kasim were not also friendly. Mir Kasim joined with the **Nawab of Oudh** and **Shah Alam II**, the Moghul Emperor. The English defeated all the three in the Battle **of Buxar in** 1764 A.D. This victory *stabilised British power in Bengal.

The Treaty of Allahabad (1765 A.D.)

The English concluded a treaty with Shah Alam II, the Moghul Emperor in 1765 A.D. This treaty is known as the **Treaty of Allahabad**. According to the treaty, the Moghul Emperor granted the **Diwani** of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa to the English.

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*stabilised—made permanent

Double Government of Bengal

Clive set right the administration in Bengal. He set up a system of government in Bengal known as the **Double Government**. According to this, the Nawab of Bengal became a nominal head. The English were the real rulers. The English were responsible for the collection of revenue and for the defence of the country. Clive carried on his duties till 1767 A.D. when he left India for his country.

WARREN HASTINGS

Governor (1772—1773),
Governor General (1774—1785)

Reforms of Warren Hastings

Robert Clive laid the foundation for the British rule in India and Warren Hastings strengthened it.

In 1772 A.D., Warren Hastings was appointed Governor of Bengal. He abolished the Dual Government of Clive. He divided Bengal and Bihar into several districts. He appointed an English Collector in each district to be in charge of revenue collection. A Revenue Board was set up at Calcutta. The Board supervised the revenue administration. Warren Hastings set up separate courts in each district to try civil and criminal cases. The Police department was reformed. Hindu and Muslim law codes were drawn up in his time.

The Regulating Act (1773 A.D.)

The financial position of the company was not good. The East India Company applied to the British Government for a big loan. In 1773 A.D. the British Parliament passed an Act known as the **Regulating**

Act with a view to reforming the administration of the company. By this Act, the Governor of Bengal became the Governor-General of Calcutta. Thus Warren Hastings became the First Governor-General. The Governor-General was to be helped by a Council of 4 members in carrying on his administration. A Supreme Court was established in Calcutta. **Sir Eliza Impey** became its Chief Justice. The British Parliament began interfering in the affairs of the Company only after the Regulating Act.

The Wars fought by Warren Hastings with Hyder Ali and the Marathas

During the days of Warren Hastings the British fought with Hyder Ali, the Sultan of Mysore, and his son Tipu Sultan and defeated them. The Marathas fought among themselves for the office of the Peshwa. The British interfered in their dispute and the war was known as the First Maratha War. **Nana Fadnavis**, an able Maratha diplomat, put up a stout resistance to the English. The Governor-General conducted the war ably and won a decisive victory. The **Treaty of Salbai** was signed in 1782 A.D. By this treaty the English got the Island of Salsette from the Marathas.



Fig. 39. Hyder Ali

Pitt's India Act (1784 A.D.)

There were defects in the Regulating Act of 1773. Pitt's India Act was passed by the British Parliament in 1784 A.D. to remove the defects found in the regulating act. Pitt's India Act established a body known as the **Board of Control** in London to supervise the working of the Company. It was laid down that the Company should not wage any war or conclude peace without the permission of the Board of Control. The Governor-General's Council was to consist of only 3 members. Governor-General's authority over the Governors of Madras and Bombay was recognised.

LORD CORNWALLIS (1786–1793 A.D.)

Reforms of Lord Cornwallis

Lord Cornwallis was appointed Governor-General in 1786 A.D.

Cornwallis set right the administration by introducing a number of beneficial reforms. He made the company's servants full time public servants. He abolished private trade carried on by the company's servants. Appointments were made on the basis of merit. But, Cornwallis did not appoint Indians to high positions. He deprived the collectors of their judicial functions and confined them to revenue work. He appointed judges separately in districts to try civil cases.

Permanent Revenue Settlement (1793 A.D.)

The most important reform brought about by Lord Cornwallis was the **Permanent Revenue Settlement**. The East India Company had obtained the

right of Diwani by the Treaty of Allahabad. They auctioned this right of collecting revenue to big land owners, the zamindars. The highest bidder obtained the right. So, every year the amount of revenue varied. The zamindars became poor. The farmers suffered a lot.

Lord Cornwallis introduced the permanent Revenue Settlement in Bengal in 1793 A.D. By this settlement, the zamindars were made owners of the land. The payment of annual revenue to the Government by the zamindars was fixed permanently. This annual revenue never varied. The zamindars grew very rich. They were pillars of strength to the British. They helped the society by their *charitable acts. They improved their lands and increased the revenue.

But the Permanent Revenue Settlement had defects also. Some of the zamindars neglected cultivation. They lived a life of ease and luxury. They did not pay attention to the cultivation of their lands. They failed to look after the interests of the farmers. As the revenue was fixed, the Government lost a good slice of income when the value of lands went up and when production increased. The Permanent Revenue Settlement assured the welfare of the zamindars. It postponed the welfare of the farmers. It sacrificed the income of the company.

The Third Mysore War (1790–1792 A.D.)

Tipu Sultan of Mysore, son of Hyder Ali, was a man of great ability. He wanted to drive away the British from South India and establish his authority there.

**charitable* : liberal in giving to the poor

Tipu Sultan attacked Travancore, the Raja of which was an ally of the British. The British, the Marathas and the Nizam entered into a 'Triple Alliance' to put

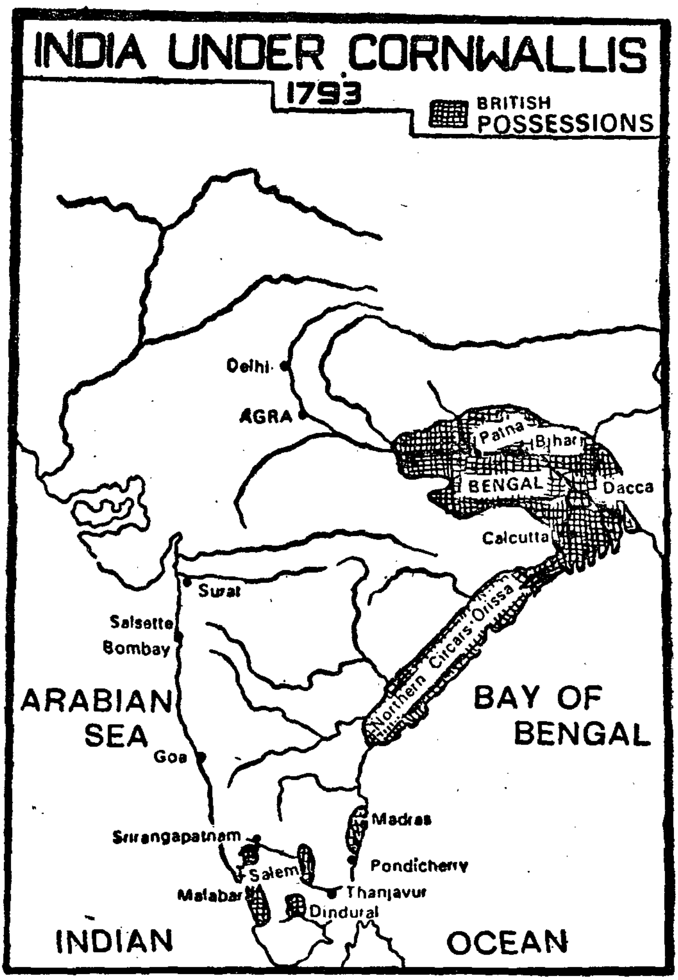


Fig. 40. India Under Cornwallis

up a stout resistance to Tipu Sultan. Lord Cornwallis declared war against Tipu Sultan in 1790 A.D. This is known as the **Third Mysore War.**

Lord Cornwallis himself led the army, and gained an impressive victory. He easily captured Bangalore. He laid siege to Srirangapatanam, Tipu's capital. At last, Tipu concluded peace with the British in 1792 A.D. This is known as the **Treat of Srirangapatanam**. The English got Malabar, Dindigul, Coimbatore and Salem. The territory north of the Tungabhadra was given to the Marathas. Part of the Ceded districts was given to the Nizam.

LORD WELLESLEY (1798 to 1805 A.D.)

Lord Wellesley gave up the policy of Non-Intervention

Sir **John Shore** succeeded Lord Cornwallis. He was the Governor-General from 1793 to 1798 A.D. He followed the policy of Non-Intervention in the affairs of the Indian kings. Lord Wellesley succeeded Sir John Shore. He became the Governor-General in 1798 A.D. He was a very able man. He thought that only the British could give a good government to the people of India.

Subsidiary System

Several Indian kings had previously sought the help of the French. They had their soldiers trained on western lines. They desired to drive away the British from this country. So, Lord Wellesley gave up the Policy of Non-Intervention in the affairs of the Indian kings. He adopted different methods to establish the British supremacy in India. The Subsidiary System was the chief among them.

During his time the great military genius of France Napoleon had made France a powerful country in

Europe. Wellesley's aim was to remove the French danger in India and make the British power supreme.

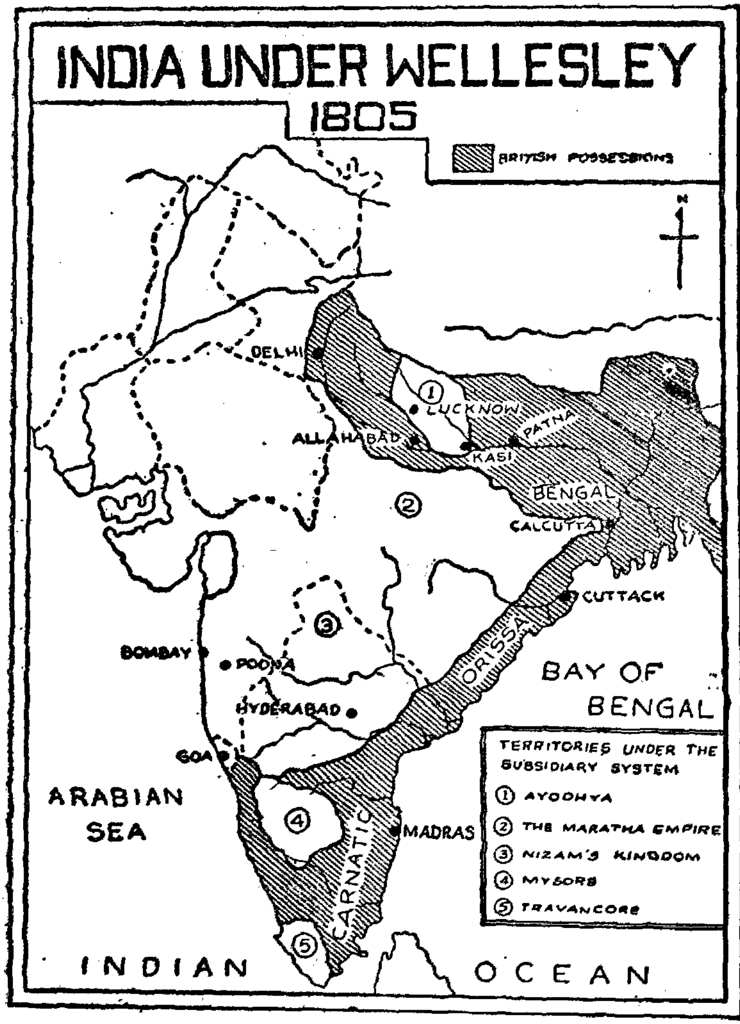


Fig. 41. India Under Wellesley

Lord Wellesley introduced the Subsidiary System in order to bring the Indian kingdoms under the authority of the British. According to this system :

(i) The Indian King must keep a British army in his kingdom for the purpose of defence. He must keep a British Resident in his kingdom. He must maintain this British army at his own expense. Or he must give a portion of his territory to British control which was equal to the expenses borne by the British.

(ii) Without the permission of the British, the Indian kings should not maintain political relations among themselves.

(iii) They should not have relations with the Europeans other than the English.

(iv) The East India Company gave an assurance that it would not interfere in the internal affairs of the Indian kingdoms.

(v) It promised to defend them against the attacks of enemies from outside.

Welle sley forced the Indian Princes to accept the Subsidiary System. The Nizam of Hyderabad agreed to the Subsidiary System. He ceded to the British the districts of Cuddapah, Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur for the upkeep of the army. Hence these districts were known as the **Ceded Districts.** Then, the Nawab of Oudh agreed to this system and ceded the Jumuna-Ganga Doab to the British. The Peshwa and the Gaekwar agreed to the Subsidiary System. Tipu Sultan and the Maratha leaders other than the Peshwa and the Gaekwar refused to enter the Subsidiary System. Wellesley therefore declared wars against them.

The Fourth Mysore War (1799 A.D.)

Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore, strengthened his army. He sought the help of Napoleon, the French General. He had his soldiers trained under the French and reorganised his army. The East India Company objected to this attitude of Tipu. So war broke out between Wellesley and Tipu. This was the **Fourth Mysore War**. Tipu Sultan fought well. He died a valiant soldier's death fighting at the gates of the fort at Srirangapatanam. The British and the Nizam shared a great part of Mysore between themselves. **Krishna Raja Wadiyar** a representative of the old Hindu dynasty was placed on the throne of Mysore.

Second and Third Maratha Wars 1803–1805 A.D.

The Peshwa **Baji Rao II** agreed to the Subsidiary System, by the **Treaty of Bassein** of 1802. The other Maratha leaders did not like this. They made preparations to fight against the British. The **Second Maratha War** broke out. The British won this war. The Maratha leaders accepted the Subsidiary System. But Holkar continued the struggle for a long time. This is known as the **Third Maratha War.** As the war dragged on, Lord Wellesley was recalled to England.

Formation of the Madras Presidency

As the Carnatic and Tanjore were not administered properly, Wellesley annexed them to the British territory in India. The Northern Circars obtained by Clive, territories got by the Company in the Mysore wars, and the Ceded districts were added to the

Carnatic and Tanjore. In this way the **Madras Presidency** was formed by Wellesley in 1801.

LORD DALHOUSIE (1848–1856 A.D.)

The Imperialistic views of Lord Dalhousie

Lord Dalhousie became the Governor-General in 1848 A.D. He was a well-learned scholar. He took pride in British imperialism. He was very proud in feeling that the British rule was the best. He was in power for eight years and by the end of that period, the whole of India had come under the rule of the British.

Lord Dalhousie was vigorous in following his policy of extending the British Empire. Annexation by conquest, application of 'the Doctrine of Lapse' and bringing the Indian kingdoms misgoverned by Indian rulers under the British rule were the three methods adopted by Dalhousie in annexing states to the British territory in India.

Annexation by Conquest

Two wars took place during Dalhousie's Governor-Generalship. They were the **Second Sikh War** and the **Second Burmese War**. By waging the Second Sikh War, Dalhousie brought the whole of the Punjab under the British control. Lower Burma was annexed as a result of the Burmese war.

The Doctrine of Lapse

Lord Dalhousie brought into force 'the Doctrine of Lapse'. He announced that if the ruler of an Indian State had no heirs to the throne, that State

would be annexed to the British territory. Satara, Jhansi and Nagpur were annexed according to this doctrine.

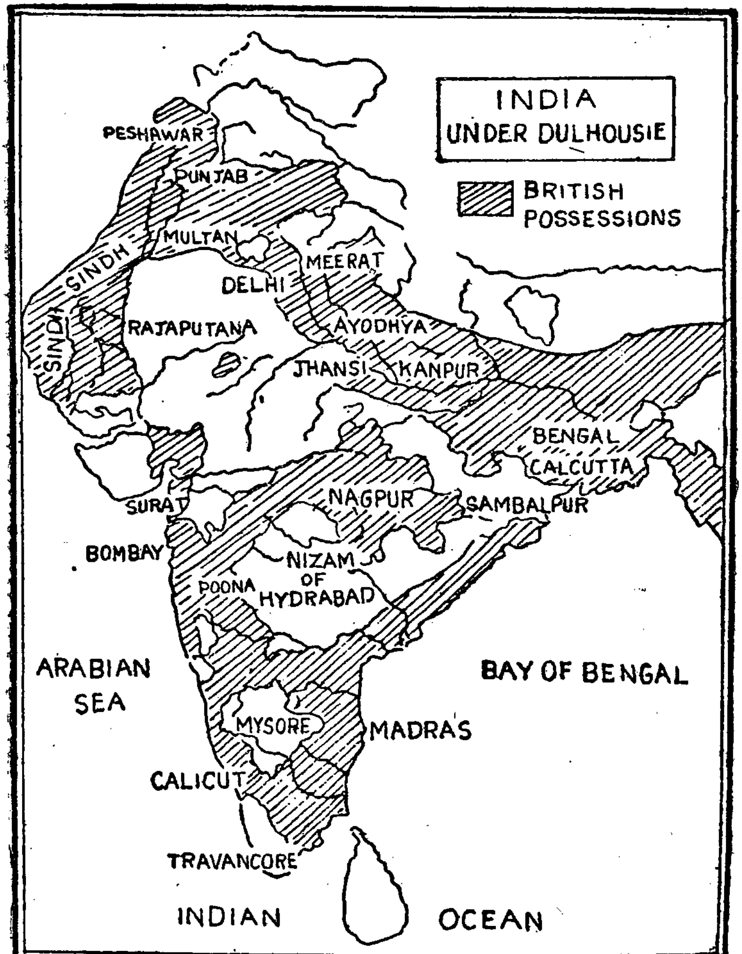


Fig. 42. India Under Dulhousie

Annexation on the ground of Misgovernment

Dalhousie said that Oudh was not governed well by its ruler. So he annexed that State.

The Nizam of Hyderabad had not made payments under the Subsidiary System. So he gave Berar to the English for the maintenance of the subsidiary force. Peshwa Baji Rao died. Lord Dalhousie refused to pay the pension to Nana Sahib, the adopted son of the Peshwa.

The title of the Nawab of the Carnatic was abolished. The Rajah of Tanjore was also not allowed to wear the title 'Rajah'.

Dalhousie's Reforms

Lord Dalhousie reformed the administration. The Calcutta secretariat was reorganised. He set up the Public Works Department. He provided for such facilities as roads, bridges and irrigation projects. Lord Dalhousie was 'the Father of the Indian Railways'. He connected the main internal centres with ports by means of railways. The railways were laid both for military purposes and commercial development. The first railway line connected Bombay with Thana. This line was laid in 1853 A.D. The postal system was reformed. A uniform half-anna (modern three paise) rate for all letters was provided. The first telegraph line from Calcutta to Agra was opened in 1854 A.D.

Dalhousie's rule saw great developments in the field of education. Emphasis was laid on primary education. Encouragement was given to the development of high schools and colleges. Private agencies were encouraged to run new schools. Dalhousie established an engineering college at Roorkee. He made arrangements for the opening of Universities in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras. Harbours and lighthouses were built. The Indian seaports were thrown open to world trade. Lord Dalhousie returned to England in 1856 A.D.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. Between whom were wars of succession fought in Hyderabad and the Carnatic? How did Muhammad Ali become the Nawab of the Carnatic?

2. How was the supremacy of the British established in Bengal?

3. When was the Regulating Act passed? What were its provisions?

4. When and by whom was the Permanent Revenue Settlement brought about? What were its features?

5. Who was the Governor-General that introduced the Subsidiary System? What was the aim of this system? What were its features?

6. What is meant by 'The Doctrine of Lapse'? Who was the Governor-General that applied this doctrine and to what States?

II. Give short answers

1. Who was the person that discovered a new sea route to India from Europe in the first instance? To which country did he belong?

2. Why is Clive called 'the Hero of Arcot'?

3. Between whom was the Battle of Plassey fought? When was it fought? What was its importance?

4. What was the right obtained by the British by the Treaty of Allahabad.

5. What is meant by 'the Dual Government of Bengal'? Who introduced it?

6. Which Governor-General is called 'the Maker of the Madras Presidency'?

7. Which Indian States were annexed to the British territory in India by the application of the Doctrine of Lapse ?

III. **Fill in the blanks with suitable words**

1. By the Treaty of Salbai, the British got the island of ———

2. A railway line was laid between ——— and ——— in 1853 A.D.

V. **Do it yourself**

1. On two outline maps of India mark

(a) The British territories in India under Lord Wellesley and Lord Dalhousie.

(b) Collect pictures of Robert Clive, Warren Hastings, Hyder Ali, Lord Cornwallis, Lord Wellesley, Tipu Sultan and Lord Dalhousie and paste them in your album.

CHAPTER XX

THE FIRST WAR OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE (1857)

Introduction

India attained her independence on August 15, 1947. But we, the Indians, did not get our freedom from foreign rule without undergoing trials and difficulties. The Indian people felt the thirst for freedom about a hundred years before India got her freedom. As a result, the First War of Indian Independence broke out in 1857 A.D. There were many causes for its outbreak.

Causes

Political: The policy of annexation followed by Lord Dalhousie created a lot of political discontent throughout the country. Dalhousie applied the Doctrine of Lapse and annexed Satara, Jhansi and Nagpur. The Hindus resented this annexation. Oudh was annexed by Lord Dalhousie on the ground of misrule. The result was that its ruler, people and the Indian Princes hated the British. When the Indian States were annexed, it was not merely that the princes were dethroned. The people of these states lost their rights and underwent suffering on account of their unemployment. The stoppage of pension to Nana Sahib, the adopted son of Baji Rao, made him

the deadly enemy of the Britishers. Racial *discrimination was shown by the British. Indian magistrates were not permitted to try the European accused.

Social : The British administrators introduced a number of reforms from the days of **William Bentinck**. These reforms aroused suspicion in the minds of a section of the Hindu community. They thought that these reforms were efforts made to convert them to Christianity. The Christian missionaries were allowed to carry on their activities without any difficulty. Formerly, a convert from Hinduism was not allowed to inherit property. The Hindu Law of property was changed. It was said that a Christian convert should be given the right to get a share of his family property. The Hindus got alarmed at the change made in the Hindu Law of property. The Indians regarded the introduction of railways, posts and telegraphs as a trick to Europeanise and Christianise them. The Indians were not appointed to high posts in the British Government although they possessed necessary qualifications. This made them hate the English.

Military : Most of the soldiers in the employ of the East India Company were Indian soldiers who were called sepoys. Their salaries were low. The highest pay of a Subedar was less than the minimum pay of a raw English recruit. When the Indian soldiers went to distant places to take part in war, they were not given high salaries. The Government did not trust the sepoys. It did not give them positions of responsibility. The Bengal army consisted of sepoys who had come from high castes. These sepoys refused to go across the seas. They feared that their

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**Discrimination* : difference.

religious purity would be affected. The sepoys formed a majority in the army. So they thought they could wipe out the Englishmen who were few.

Immediate Cause : In such a tense atmosphere, the British Government introduced the **Enfield Rifle**. In this rifle they had to use **greased cartridges.** The sepoys refused to use *greased cartridges because the Hindus thought that they were greased with the fat of the cow and the Muslims thought that they were greased with the fat of the pigs. As a result, a few sepoys refused to use the cartridges. They were sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by a military court. So the other sepoys rebelled at Barrackpore near Calcutta. Soon the revolt spread.

Course

The princes and the people took part in this revolt. So it became a national rising.

This revolt spread to Meerut near Delhi. The sepoys went to Delhi and proclaimed Bahadur Shah II as Emperor of India. The rebellion spread to Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra and Jhansi. Nana Sahib was leader at Kanpur. Lakshmi Bai, the Queen of Jhansi, raised the standard of revolt in Central India. Tantia Topi was one of the most valiant leaders.

In the beginning the rebels were successful. But with the arrival of fresh troops from England, the war turned in favour of the Company.

Bahadur Shah was taken a prisoner. He was sent to Rangoon.

**greased* : Covered.

Lucknow fell into the hands of the sepoys. In Central India Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi and Tantia Topi were defeated. The Rani of Jhansi dressed in



Fig. 43. Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi

male attire, fought boldly and died a soldier's death. The revolt was crushed.

Causes of failure of the Revolt

1. The Revolt did not spread all over the country. Sind and Rajputana remained peaceful. The Punjab was not affected by the revolt. It helped the Company. The country south of the Narmada did not take part in the revolt. The Nizam and Sindhia were loyal to the Company.

2. Indian leaders except Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi and Tantia Topi were not capable. There was no unity among them.

3. The British had mastery over the seas. They could easily send reinforcements and make essential supplies to India as early as possible.

4. The Indians fought with old weapons. They fought with weapons they had captured from the enemy. These weapons could not help them to win battles.

5. The newly laid railways and the newly introduced system of telegraphs were in the hands of the English. These enabled them to send their forces quickly and put down the revolt.

Effects of the Revolt

Queen Victoria was the British Queen at the time of this war. She did not like the rule of the Company to continue. So the British Government passed a law in 1858 A.D. The rule of the English East India Company was abolished. The control of the Indian Government was transferred from the Company to the British Parliament. India came under the rule of the British Crown. The British Sovereign became the Empress of India. One of the ministers of the British Cabinet was appointed as the Secretary of State for India. He was in charge of Indian affairs. The Governor-General was called henceforth as the



Fig. 44. Queen Victoria

Viceroy and the Governor-General. Lord Canning became the First Viceroy of India. After becoming the Empress of India, Victoria issued **a Proclamation** in 1858. It was proclaimed that the policy of extending British territorial possessions in India would be given up; the rights of the native princes would be protected; Britain would not interfere with the customs and habits of the Indians; Indians would be given appointments according to their qualifications and ability and not on the basis of race and caste. The Proclamation gave satisfaction to the princes and people of India.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. What were the political causes for the outbreak of the First War of Indian Independence?
2. What were the social and military causes for the outbreak of the First War of Indian Independence?
3. Why did the First War of Indian Independence end in failure?
4. What promises were made in Queen Victoria's Proclamation?

II. Write Short answers

1. When was the First War of Indian Independence fought?
2. When did Queen Victoria issue her Proclamation?
3. Who was the First Viceroy of India?

III. Do it yourself

1. Mark on the outline map of India all the places connected with the First War of Indian Independence.
2. Collect the pictures of the rebel leaders who took part in the First War of Indian Independence.
3. Write a drama on the life of Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi and enact it.

CHAPTER XXI

INDIA UNDER THE CROWN
1858–1947 A.D.

LORD CANNING (1858–1862 A.D.)

Lord Canning became the first Viceroy of India according to the Government of India Act of 1858. He was the last Governor-General under the East India Company. It became his responsibility to carry out Queen Victoria's promises to her Indian subjects.

Reforms

Lord Canning was broad in outlook. He was a man of compassion with a desire to follow the path of justice. As Viceroy of India, he ruled ably from 1858 A.D. to 1862 A.D. He invited the Indian Princes to a durbar held at Agra. He explained to them the details of the Queen's Proclamation. He granted pardon and set free all those who took part in the First War of Indian Independence except those who were charged with murder. He was therefore called 'Clemency Canning'.

The Government incurred a lot of expenditure owing to the War of Independence. He imposed an income-tax to meet the expenses. He cut down all the unnecessary expenses of the Government.

Lord Canning wanted to promote the welfare of Indians. He established High Courts in 1861 A.D. in big cities like Calcutta, Madras and Bombay. The

Civil Procedure Code was drawn. This code prescribes the legal system to be followed in cases relating to property of persons. The Indian Penal Code drawn by a commission under the lead of Lord **Macaulay** was enacted in 1860 A.D.

Canning reduced the number of Indian soldiers in the army. He increased the number of British soldiers in the army. Only British soldiers were enlisted in the artillery force.

Canning endeavoured to spread higher education in India. So, he established Universities in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, for which plans had already been made by Lord Dalhousie.

The farmers in Bengal suffered a lot at the hands of the landowners. The Bengal Rent Act was passed to safeguard the interests of the cultivators.

Indian Councils Act of 186

The Indian Councils Act of 1861 was passed by the English Parliament. The Viceroy's Council was enlarged. Half of it were non-official members. For the First time Provincial Legislative Councils were created. The Act of 1861 enabled the Indians to get admission into the Legislative Councils.

LORD RIPON (1880–1884 A.D.)

Lord Ripon was one of the most popular Viceroys of India. He was a man of broad outlook. He was interested in the welfare of the common people of our country.

Reforms'

Ripon reduced the tax on salt. Thus he helped the poor. In 1881 A.D., the first census was taken at his instance. Since then, census is taken every ten years in our country.

He helped the growth of the Indian language newspapers. He removed the restrictions placed on the newspapers written in Indian languages, repealing the Vernacular Press Act.

Lord Ripon encouraged the spread of primary and upper primary education. He appointed an Education Commission to encourage the spread of education in India. Several schools and colleges were opened on its recommendations.

Lord Ripon took a good deal of interest in the welfare of the labourers. It was in 1881 A.D. that the first Factory Act was passed to improve the conditions of labourers in Indian factories. This Act prohibited children under seven years of age from working in factories. It restricted the period of employment of children (between 7 and 12 years of age) to 9 hours a day.

One of the most important reforms was the introduction of Local Self-Government during the year 1883-84. Ripon desired to give political education to the Indian people through the Local Bodies. Elected representatives of the people took upon the responsibility of promoting the welfare of the people. Corporations in big cities, municipalities in towns and

panchayats in villages were set up. They undertook some responsibility within their territorial limits and provided facilities such as education, drinking water, roads, hospitals and dispensaries to people.

Ripon loved the Indians. They in turn loved and respected him. The people of Madras honoured him my naming the Madras Corporation Buildings as the 'Ripon Buildings'.

LORD CURZON (1899–1905 A.D.)

Lord Curzon was one of the ablest Viceroys that came to India. He had previous political experience as he had held several responsible posts.

Reforms

Lord Curzon formed a new province called the North-West Frontier Province to protect the North-West borders of India.

In order to provide relief to people who were affected by famines, he appointed a Commission to make recommendations for providing famine relief. He passed an Act in 1904 A.D, to establish Co-operative Credit Societies. These societies advanced loans to cultivators at low rates of interest.

They also enabled the cultivators to return the loans in easy instalments. He did much to start the Co-operative movement in our country. Many co-operative societies have been started in several parts of our country since then.

Curzon reduced the tax levied on the farmers. He created a new department called the Agriculture Department. This department had to improve agriculture on a scientific basis. He appointed a separate officer to be in charge of this department. He also established an Agricultural Research Centre at Pusa in Bihar.

During the Viceroyalty of Lord Curzon, colleges were established. He improved the status of the universities. The University Act was passed in 1904 A.D. By this act, the universities were brought under the effective control of the Government.

Curzon considered it good to preserve the ancient monuments of India. They enjoyed historical importance. So he organised an Archaeological Department. This was a great service done by him to the cause of History.

During the days of his viceroyalty, the province of Bengal was a large one and the administration of this province could not be carried on efficiently. So Lord Curzon divided Bengal into two provinces. The Indian National Congress regarded the partition as an attempt to divide the Hindus and Muslims of Bengal. The people of India were very much agitated over this partition. The partition of Bengal caused a tremendous political agitation which stirred national feeling in India. In 1911 A.D. the partition was cancelled. In spite of his unpopularity, Curzon was a great Viceroy who introduced a number of useful reforms.

LORD IRWIN (1926–1931 A.D.)

Simon Commission (1927)

Lord Irwin was a man of high moral character. The Government in England appointed a commission to report on the working of the Montford Reforms. The chairman of that commission was **Sir John Simon**. So it was known as the 'Simon Commission'. All the seven members of the commission were Englishmen. There was not a single Indian in it. The Indian National Congress refused to Co-operate with the commission. All the Indians boycotted the Simon Commission.



Fig. 45. Lord Irwin

Resolutions passed by the Congress (1929)

In the Madras session held in 1927 A.D. the Congress declared complete national independence as its goal. However it declared that it would agree to accept Dominion Status if granted on or before 31st December, 1929. Otherwise, the Congress resolved to fight for complete independence.

The Government did not agree to this resolution. On the last day in 1929 A.D., the Congress under the presidentship of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** passed a resolution to demand Complete Independence for **India at Lahore.**

Gandhi-Irwin Pact (1931 A.D.)

To achieve Purna Swaraj, Mahatma Gandhi launched the Civil Disobedience Movement, in March 1930. Gandhiji broke the Salt Laws and began to make salt himself. Gandhiji's march from Sabarmati to **Dandi** to make salt kindled a fire in the hearts of the countrymen. His example was followed all over India. Gandhiji and thousands of volunteers were put in prison. The First Round Table Conference took place in England the same year. The Congress did not participate in this conference. Lord Irwin realised that it was useless to follow a policy of repression. Both Gandhiji and Lord Irwin came to an agreement in 1931 A.D. This was known as the **Gandhi-Irwin pact.**

According to this pact, those who lived along the sea-shore could make salt for their private use. Those who were sent to jail for their participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement should be set free. It was also pointed out in the pact that the property taken from political prisoners should be returned to them. Volunteers could be allowed to picket liquor shops. The Civil Disobedience movement was stopped as a result of this pact. Gandhiji agreed to attend the Second Round Table Conference in London as the sole representative of the Congress.

He went to London but the Conference did not succeed in its task. Gandhiji returned to India and started his non-violent movement once again.

LORD MOUNTBATTEN (1947-1948 A.D.

The last Viceroy of India was **Lord Mount-batten.** He took up his appointment as Viceroy on

24th March, 1947. He tried to make India become an Independent country. The Muslim League under the leadership of **Muhammad Ali Jinnah** demanded a separate State for the Muslims. It pleaded that the separate State should comprise territories where the Muslims were in a majority.

Lord Mountbatten announced a plan to find a solution to the knotty political problem of India on June 3, 1947. According to this plan, India would be divided into **Bharat** and **Pakistan**. The provinces of Bengal and the Punjab would be split into two. East Bengal, West Punjap, the North-west Frontier Province, Sylhet, Sind, and Baluchistan would be allowed to form Pakistan. The rest of the country would become India or Bharat. On the 15th July, 1947 the Indian Independence Act was passed by Parliament in England.



Fig. 46. Lord Mountbatten

On the 14th and 15th August, 1947 two independent dominions were created and they were India and Pakistan. The British Government transferred its power to these two new Dominions.

Karachi became the Capital of Pakistan, while Delhi remained India's Capital. **Lord Mountbatten**

became the Governor-General of the new Dominion of India at the request of the Congress. **Muhammad Ali Jinnah** became the first Governor-General of Pakistan. Mountbatten returned to England after a few months. Then **Thiru C. Rajagopalachari**

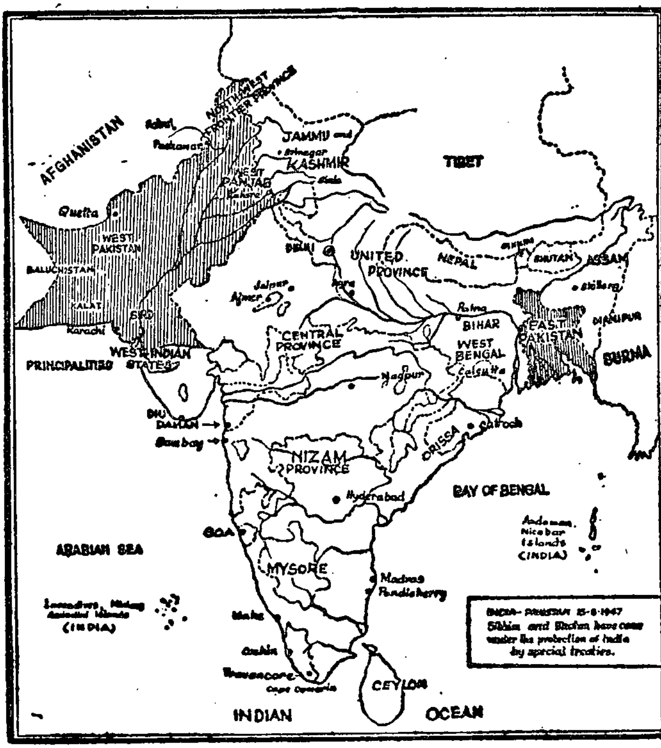


Fig. 47. India-Pakistan

(popularly known as Rajaji) assumed office as the Governor-General of Independent India. He was the first Indian to become the Governor-General of India. He was also the last Governor-General of India. **Jawaharlal Nehru** was the first Prime minister of Independent India.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. What were the Reforms of Lord Canning?
2. Mention the reforms of Lord Ripon.
3. Explain the reforms of Lord Curzon.
4. What were the terms of Gandhi-Irwin Pact?
5. Explain 'Mountbatten Plan'.

II. Give short answers

1. Why was Canning called as 'Clemency Canning'?
2. During whose Viceroyalty, was the first census taken in our country?
3. Who was the last Viceroy of India?

III. Fill in the blanks with suitable words

1. ——— was India's first Viceroy.
2. The Chairman of the Commission that came to India during the Viceroyalty of Lord Irwin was ———
3. The Purna Swaraj resolution was passed in the——— session of the Indian National Congress.
4. ——— was the first Governor-General of Independent India and ———was the first Prime Minister.

IV. Do it yourself

1. On the outline map provided mark India and Pakistan with their Capitals
2. Collect the pictures of Canning, Ripon. Curzon, Irwin, Mountbatten, Gandhiji, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Patel, and Muhammad Ali Jinnah and paste them in your album.

CHAPTER XXII

INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

(1885–1947 A.D.)

Birth of the Indian National Congress

Nationalism arose in India towards the latter half of the 19th century. There were several causes for the rise of Nationalism : (1) The conquest of the whole of India by Britain and the political and administrative unity effected by British rule helped the growth of national unity; (2) When English became the language of schools, colleges, courts and offices, there was developed unity among the educated classes; (3) The study of western political institutions and revolutions created in the minds of the people the desire to be free from foreign rule; (4) The printing press through books and newspapers promoted nationalism among people; (5) The 'Brahmo Samaj', 'Arya Samaj', 'Theosophical Movement' and the 'Ramakrishna Movement' roused the national spirit.

To help the growth of the National Movement, the Indian National Congress was founded in 1885 A.D. The History of the Freedom Struggle in India is the History of the Indian National Congress. Great Englishmen like **Allan Octavian Hume** and **William Wedderburn** and Indian patriots like **Dadabhai Naoroji** and **Surendranath Bannerji** were responsible for forming the Indian National Congress. The Indian National Congress met for the first time in Bombay. **Mr. Womesh Chandra Bannerjea**

presided. The following were the main aims of the Indian National Congress at the beginning: The Indians should get high posts in the Public Services. The people should be given opportunities to air their grievances and seek solutions for their problems. The Indians should gradually obtain responsibility in government. There should be reduction of military expenditure. The Indian National Congress met annually at different places to achieve these objectives and sent its resolutions to the Government. It gained strength as days passed by.

The Moderates and the Extremists

The leaders of the Indian National Congress, in the beginning, agitated within the four corners of the law of the land. They were known as the 'Moderates'. **Gopala Krishna Gokhale** was the most important leader of the Moderates. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Our Nation, loved and respected him.

The people who opposed the Moderates were known as the Extremists. **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** was their leader. He instilled a spirit of patriotism in the Indians through his papers 'Kesari' and 'Mahratta'. He found fault with the Moderates by calling their policy as a policy of mendicancy*.

His policy was that the Indians should secure their rights only by direct action. Tilak was supported by **Lala Lajpat Rai**, 'the Lion of the Punjab' **Bepin Chandra Pal**, a Bengali leader and **V. O. Chidambaram Pillai**, a notable Tamilian leader.

**mendicancy* : beggarly attitude.

'Swaraj is my birthright and I will have it' became the freedom cry of Tilak. He desired to make the Congress an organization of the masses.

Partition of Bengal (1905 A.D.)

Lord Curzon, the Viceroy of India divided Bengal into two provinces for the sake of administrative efficiency. It was divided into Bengal, and Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Hindus were in a majority in Bengal while the Muslims were in a majority in Eastern Bengal and Assam. The people condemned the action of Curzon saying that his policy was to divide the people and to suppress their national spirit. There was a widespread political agitation against the partition of Bengal.

As a result of the partition of Bengal, a strong Swadeshi Movement started. 'Give support to Indian goods and handicrafts; ignore completely foreign goods', became the cry of the followers of this movement in Bengal. This spread like wild fire throughout India. The handicrafts of India received a tremendous support. Foreign goods were boycotted. Subrahmanya Bharathi instilled a national spirit among Tamilians by composing fiery national songs. He tried to bring about social unity among the people.

The Muslim League (1906 A.D.)

Nawab Salimullah of Dacca and prince Agakhan founded a political organization known as the Muslim League. The league was started to protect the interests of the Muslims in India. The Muslim League supported the partition of Bengal. It opposed the boycott of British goods.

The Surat Congress (1907 A.D.)

The Indian National Congress met at Surat, a town at the mouth of the river Tapti, in 1907 A.D. The leaders of the Congress clashed among themselves at the **Surat** session of the Congress. The Extremists left this organization.. The Congress was in the hands of the Moderates for some years. But they lost their popularity and influence. For 9 years, the Extremists kept themselves out of the Congress.

The British Government tried to suppress the Extremists. Tilak was sentenced to undergo imprisonment for 6 years. He was kept a prisoner in Mandalay prison. Lala Lajpat Rai was exiled. It is well known to you that V. O. Chidambaranar popularly known as 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan' was arrested and he had to suffer humiliation of serving as a grinder in jail.

Minto-Morley Reforms (1909 A.D.)

As a result of the agitation made by the Congress, the British Government tried to win the support of the Moderates. Moreover, it attempted to bring about a split between the Hindus and the Muslims.

Lord Morley was the Secretary of State for India, and Lord Minto was the Viceroy. Both of them joined together and introduced some reforms known as the Minto-Morley Reforms. According to these reforms, the Legislative Councils in the provinces were enlarged. There was indirect election of members. For the first time, separate representation was given to the Muslims in Legislative Councils through special constituencies. This developed *disharmony between

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disharmony : dicord, difference.

the Hindus and the Muslims. It sowed the seed of the division of the country. The Indians were not satisfied with these reforms.

The Home Rule League (1916 A.D.)

The First World War began in 1914 A.D. The Indians helped Britain very much in fighting this war. This war lasted till 1918 A.D. Mrs. **Annie Besant** started the 'Home Rule League' to put forth the demand for responsible government for Indians. Britain made a declaration in August 1917 to say that responsible government would be given to the Indians gradually.



Fig. 48. Dr. Annie Besant

The Montague-Chemsford Reforms-Introduction of Dyarchy (1919 A.D.)

Based on the 1917 declaration, Edwin Samuel Montague, the Secretary of State for India, and Lord Chelmsford, the Viceroy of India, introduced some reforms. According to these reforms, the Legislative Councils were enlarged still further. Responsible Government was given to the Indians in the provinces to a certain extent. A division of responsibility was introduced in the provincial administration. This was known as 'Dyarchy' because there was dual responsibility. Important departments like the police depart-

ment, finance, justice and revenue were controlled by councillors responsible only to the governor. The other departments like Education, Agriculture, Local Self-Government, Health and Public Works were controlled by ministers responsible to the provincial councils.

Rowlatt Act and the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

The Montague-Chelmsford Reforms did not satisfy the people. Political troubles broke out throughout India. So, the Government followed a policy of repression. In order to punish those who were charged with crimes and to exile them from the country without trial, the Rowlatt Act was passed in 1919 A.D. There was a national rising against this repressive Act. Gandhiji asked the people of India to protest against the Rowlatt Act in a passive way. As a result, agitation took place all over the country. The British army opened fire and shot 379 persons dead on 13th April, 1919, when the people gathered for a meeting at a place called **Jallianwala Bagh** in Amritsar. Fire was ordered to be opened on the peaceful gathering of the unarmed people by a heartless General called **Dyer**. 1,200 persons lay wounded on the ground there. They were left uncared for. The people were shocked by the massacre and it served to kindle the national spirit among the people.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answer

1. What were the causes of Indian Nationalism?
2. When was the Indian National Congress founded? What were its objectives at the beginning?

3. Who were called as the Moderates and **the Extremists?** What were the differences between them ?
4. Who was responsible for the Partition of **Bengal? What** were the results of the partition?
5. Explain the reforms introduced by Minto and Morley.
6. Mention the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms.

II. Give short answers

1. Write a short note on the Muslim League.
2. What was the aim of the Swadeshi Movement?
3. How did the Minto-Morley Reforms sow the seed of the division of the country?
4. Who started the 'Home Rule League'?
5. Write a note on the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.

III. Fill in the blanks

1. ——— was the greatest leader of the Moderates.
2. 'Swaraj is my birthright and I will have it' was the freedom cry of ———.
3. The Congress was split into two at its session held at ——— in 1907 A.D.

CHAPTER XXIII

INDIA'S STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM (CONTD) GAHDIAN ERA (1920–1947)

Mahatma Gandhi and Satyagraha

Mahatma Gandhi had already achieved political success through his Satyagraha or non-violent struggle in South Africa. He returned to India and joined the Congress in 1916. This became a turning point in the history of the Freedom Struggle. The freedom struggle from 1919 to 1947 is closely linked up with Gandhiji's life and this period is known as the **Gandhian Era.**



Fig. 49. Mahatma Gandhi

Truth, Non-violence and Dharma were the weapons which the Mahatma used against the British in India. This new way of political struggle is known as the **Satyagraha.** It was a great national movement of the masses based on non-violence.

Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha had three phases, namely (1) Non-Cooperation Movement in 1920 (2) Civil Disobedience Movement in 1930 and (3) Quit India Movement in 1942.

Non-Cooperation Movement, (1920)

Gandhiji started the Non-Cooperation Movement (1) as he was not satisfied with the Montford Reforms; (2) as he wanted the British Government to right the Punjab wrong (Jallianwallah Bagh Massacre) and (3) to make the British Government restore the Holy territories taken from the Turkish Sultan whom the Indian Muslims regarded as their Khalifa. (Hence the agitation of the Ali Brothers was called the **Khilafat Agitation**). Legislative Councils, Colleges and Law Courts were boycotted by the people. They totally stopped buying foreign goods. Non-violence, Truth and Fearlessness became the matchless weapons against British Imperialism. But some people resorted to violence in their struggle. Gandhiji had to stop the Movement in 1923 after the burning of a police station at **Chauri-Chaura** in United Provinces. Gandhiji was sent to jail and later released due to his ill-health.

Swarajya Party (1923)

After the suspension of the Non-Cooperation Movement, **C. R. Das** with the support of **Motilal Nehru** founded the **Swarajya Party**. Its object was for the Congressmen to stand for elections, enter the legislatures and destroy the Montford Constitution from within.

Simon Commission (1927)

The British Government, taking note of the Non-Cooperation Movement, appointed a commission in

1927 to work out plans for political reforms. This commission was known as the **Simon Commission** and the Congress refused to co-operate with it as no Indian member was included in this Commission. The Commission was boycotted by the people.

The Salt Satyagraha (1930)

At the **Lahore Session** of the Congress held under the Presidentship of **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** in 1929, a resolution was passed to demand Complete Independence for India. In March 1930 Gandhiji started the Civil Disobedience Movement. He defied the civil law against making salt without permit and marched on foot to **Dandi** to make salt. This is known in history as the famous **Dandi March.** This Salt satyagraha caught the imagination of the people and the movement spread like wild fire throughout the country. Many Congress leaders and thousands of freedom fighters were sent to jail for participation in the Salt Satyagraha.

The Round Table Conferences

The Simon Commission had put forward some proposals for political reforms. To consider these, a series of Round Table Conferences were held in London during 1930-32. In 1931, as a result of the **Gandhi–Irwin Pact,** the Salt Satyagraha was stopped and Gandhiji took part in the Second Round table Conference in London. But he returned to India soon as he was not satisfied with it.

The Government of India Act, 1935

As a result of the Round Table Conferences, the Government of India Act of 1935 was passed and it came into force in 1937. Dyarchy in states was

abolished and Provincial Autonomy was given by this Act. Orissa and Sind became separate provinces. Burma was separated from India.

Second World War

The Congress decided to work the Government of India Act of 1935. The Congress won a majority in eight provinces in the elections held and formed ministries. When in 1939, the Second World War broke out, **Lord Linlithgo,** the Viceroy of India declared India to be in war against Britain's enemies. This he did without consulting the Ministries in the Provinces. As a protest against this, all the Congress ministers resigned. At this time, **Muhammad ali Jinnah,** leader of the Muslim League, demanded a separate Independent State for the Muslims, to be called **Pakistan**.

Cripps Offer, 1942

Neither the Congress nor the Muslim League supported Britain in the Second world war. 1942 was a critical year for Britain. Britain wanted to get India's co-operation in the war and sent Sir Stafford Cripps to India with a political plan. But the Congress and Muslim League did not accept the plan put forward by Cripps which promised Dominion

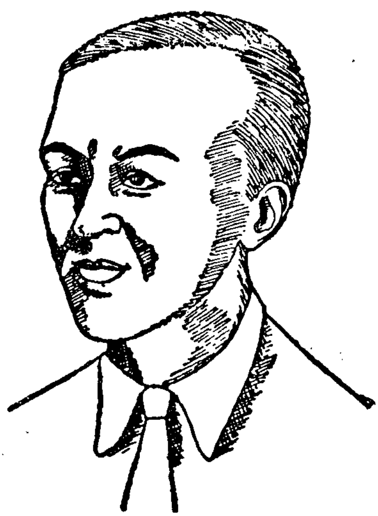


Fig. 50. Sir Stafford Cripps

Status to India at the end of the war. The Congress rejected the Cripps Offer because immediate Dominion Status was not promised and the League did not accept it because Pakistan was not promised.

The Quit India Movement (1942)

Gandhiji started the 'Quit India Movement' in 1942 asking the English to clear out of India. This was known as the **August Resolution** because it was resolved by the Congress in August 1942. The Congress leaders were all imprisoned. There were riots all over the country. Later Gandhiji and other national leaders were released.

Nethaji Subhash Chandra Bose and the I.N.A.

Subhash Chandra Bose was a great patriot who had made terrible sacrifices and had been twice President of the Indian National Congress. During the Second World War he went to Japan and formed the Indian National Army out of the Indian soldiers who had surrendered to the victorious Japanese as well as the Indians living in South-East Asia. He set up an independent Azad Indian Government. The Indian National Army invaded North East India but was turned back.



Fig. 51. Nethaji

The Constituent Assembly

The War ended in victory for Britain. The Labour Party under **Attlee** came to power in Britain. In 1946, the British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to India to discuss with Indian leaders the plans for granting independence to India. According to their plans, an Interim Government was established. A Constituent Assembly was formed to frame a constitution for India. Meanwhile the Muslim League pressed its demand for Pakistan. Communal riots broke out all over the country. Thousands of people died in these riots.

The Mountbatten Plan (June 3, 1947)

Lord Mountbatten was at this time appointed Viceroy of India. He held discussions with the leaders of the Congress and of the Muslim League. He put forward a plan to divide the sub - continent of India into two separate nations, the Indian Union and Pakistan. The Muslim majority areas of East Bengal, West Punjab, North-West Frontier Province, Sylhet, Sind and Baluchistan were to form part of Pakistan. The rest of India was to be Indian Union. Both the countries were to be given Dominion Status. Both the Congress and the Muslim League agreed to this plan.

The Attainment of Independence

The Indian Independence Act was passed by the British Parliament. On 15th August, 1947, India became an independent country. Pakistan became a separate independent country on August 14, 1947.

Lord Mountbatten was the First Governor-General Independent India. **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**, the darling of the Indian masses, became the first Prime



Fig. 52. Jawaharlal Nehru

Minister. After the retirement of Mountbatten, **Rajaji** became the Governor-General.

Mahatma Gandhi, the architect of India's freedom was acclaimed by one and all as 'The Father of the Nation'.

Exercises

Give detailed answers

1. Describe the struggle for freedom made under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.
2. Write notes on : 1. Subhash Chandra Bose (2) Cripps Offer (3) Mountbatten Plan.

Give short answers

1. What is meant by Satyagraha?
2. What were the three stages of the Satyagraha Movement of Gandhiji?
3. What changes had taken place as a result of the passing of the Government of India Act of 1935?

III. **Fill in the blanks**

1. At the .... session of the Congress held under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru in 1929 A.D. the Congress made a demand for Purna Swaraj.
2. It was made clear by Cripps' proposals that India would be given ....after the Second World War was over.
3. Under the leadership of .... the Muslim League demanded the formation of Pakistan.
4. .... was the first Governor-General of Independent India.

CHAPTER XXIV

INDEPENDENT INDIA

Integration of States

There were 612 Princely States in India when she got her freedom. **Sardar Vallabhai Patel**, the Deputy Prime Minister of India and the Union Minister for Home Affairs, used his ability and wisdom in integrating and merging these States with the Indian Union.

Main Features of the Indian Constitution

Under the Cabinet Mission Plan an Interim Government was set up and a Constituent Assembly to frame a Constitution for India met at Delhi on December 9, 1946. It took nearly a period of three years to draw a new Constitution. The new Constitution was prepared by November, 1949. It came into force from 26th January, 1950.

Our Constitution was drawn up by great legal experts. It contains many fine features. Some of them are the following :

1. India is a Sovereign Democratic Republic. The President or the Rashtrapathi will be the Head of the State.

2. Every Indian citizen enjoys the following fundamental rights: freedom of speech, freedom of writing, freedom to worship and freedom to possess property.

3. All those who have completed the age of 21, have the right to vote.

4. Our Country is a Secular State. All religious communities are equal. Every citizen has the right to follow and preach the religion of his or her choice.

5. Representatives elected by the people become members of the Parliament, of the State Legislatures and of the Village Panchayats. So, there is a Government of the people in our country at all levels.

A division of our country was made on the basis of the languages in 1956.

At present, the Indian Union consists of 22 States and 9 Union Territories. The Union Territories are administered by the Central Government. Sikkim was the last State that joined the Indian Union.

We have a federal set-up in India. We have a Central Government for the whole of India and also a State Government for each State. The Central Government has several responsibilities to be shouldered. Each State Government also has several duties to be discharged.

Central Government

The President of the Republic, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, his or her Cabinet and the Parliament of India consisting of two houses namely the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha form the Central Government.

The Central Government looks after such affairs as the railways. posts and telegraphs, production of atomic energy, broadcasting and defence. It takes

upon the responsibility to defend the nation from foreign invasion and to provide security to the people. It is the responsibility of the Government to see that there is peace in the country and that law and order are maintained.

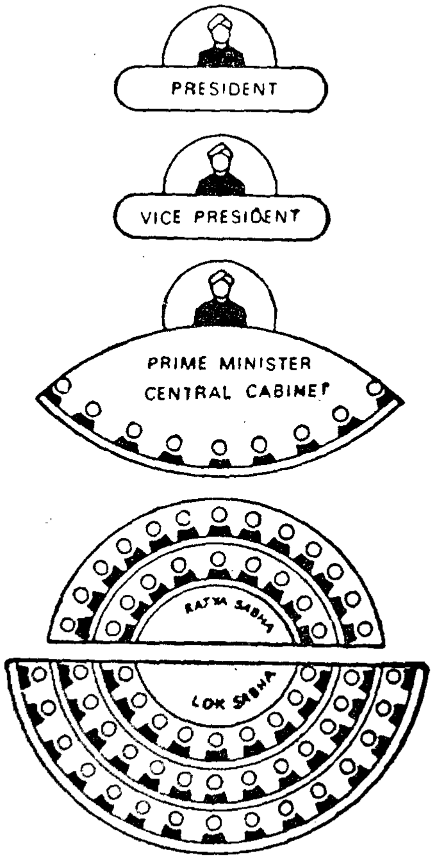
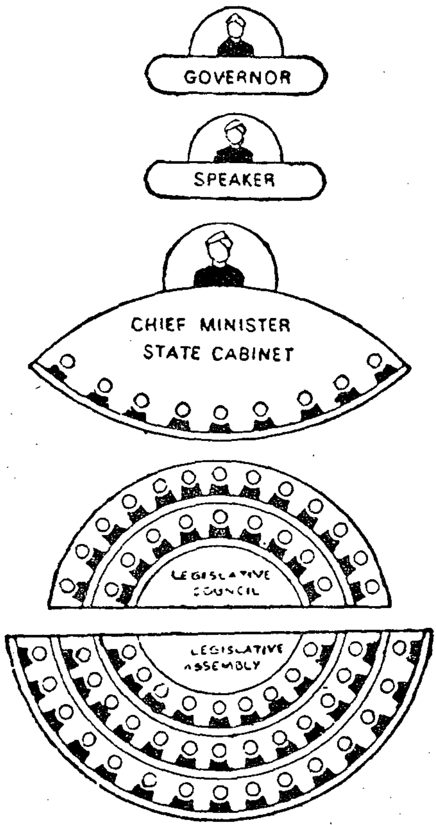


Fig. 53. The Central Government

The State Government

The State Government is modelled on the same type as the Central Government. According to the

Constitution, the State Government is formally under the Governor. The Governor has to act according to the advice of the State Council of Ministers. This Cabinet (Council of Ministers) is responsible to the Legislative Assembly of the State. Really, the political power in the State rests with the State Ministry.



The State Government

Fig. 54. The State Government

Some of the departments that come under the rule of the State Government are education, public health, police, local self-government and animal husbandry.

The First President of India was **Dr. Rajendra Prasad**. He was succeeded by **Dr. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, V. V. Giri** and **Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed**. All on a sudden Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed died. Till a new President was elected, **B. D. Jatti,** the then Vice-President served as the President of India. Then **N. Sanjiva Reddy** was elected as the President of our country.



Fig. 55. N. Sanjiva Reddy

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the first Prime Minister of Independent India. He served this nation well as Prime Minister for 17 years. He died on May 27, 1964.

He was succeeded by **Lal Bahadur Shastri, Thirumathy Indira Gandhi, Morarji Desai** and

Charan Singh. Then Tmt. Indira Gandhi was elected as the Prime Minister of our country.

Progress of Free India

It is 33 years (till 1980) since India attained independence. It was a great desire on the part of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Uncrowned King of India, that our country should make progress in several fields along a planned path. Five year Plans have been and are being implemented. Many fine projects have been launched through these plans. Economic development has taken place in a big way.

Improvement in Agriculture

The farmer is the beckbone of our nation. More than 70% of the population of our country live in villages. A majority of them depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Our farmers have taken to modern methods of cultivation and stepped up the production of foodgrains in order to meet the needs of the growing population of our country. Many waste lands have come under the plough. Irrigation projects have been built. Tractors are now used to till the soil. Fertilizers are now increasingly used to enrich the soil so as to increase its yield. As a result, the **Green Revolution** has taken place and it has vastly improved food production.

Growth of Iron and Steel Industry

The growth of industry in a country depends on the supply of two essential commodities namely iron and steel. Iron ore deposits are found in many parts of India. The Indian Government has started giant steel projects at **Bhilai** (Madhya Pradesh), **Rourkela** (Orissa) and **Durgapur** (West Bengal). The Tata

Iron and Steel works at **Jamshedpur** in Bihar is one of the biggest steel works in the world. The first unit of the **Bokaro** Steel Project in Bihar has recently been commissioned. In addition to these, steel projects have been started at **Salem** (Tamil Nadu), **Visakhapatnam** (Andhra Pradesh) and **Hospet** (Karnataka).

An All Round Progress

Through the Five Year Plans, several projects have been implemented. The waters of the Indian perennial rivers have been flowing into the seas without bringing benefit to the people. Hence plans have been drawn to utilise the waters of these rivers. Plans for the construction of river valley projects have been drawn to provide water to lands for the purpose of irrigation, to generate hydro-electric power and to control floods. They have been implemented. The **Hirakud Dam** built across the river Mahanadhi, the **Bhakra-Nangal** project across the Sutlej, the **Damodar Valley Project** across the river Damodar and the **Nagarjunasagar Dam** across the Krishna have benefited farming to a great extent.

Moreover, cotton mills are found all over India. Bombay is known as the 'Manchester of India. Coimbatore is known as the 'Manchester of South India'. Cotton industry has grown vastly in such places as Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Pune, Madurai, Kanpur, Calcutta and Madras.

There is also the growth of the sugar industry in our country. Sugar factories have grown in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The sugar manufacturing units have also been benefited by the help given by the Government.

The Indian Government had started a number of national science laboratories in different parts of India to conduct research in different fields of science. The National Physical Laboratory functions at Delhi while the National Chemical Laboratory is located at Pune. The Central Leather Institute is at Madras.

India ranks fourth in the world in having a network of railways. Locomotive engines are made at Chittaranjan near Calcutta. Coaches are built in the Integral Coach Factory at Perambur in Madras.

Seaborne trade has increased of late. India maintains maritime relations with a number of countries. New ports like **Paradip** in Orissa and **Kandla** in Gujarat have been built to carry on sea trade with other countries. We are building ships in our shipyards in **Visakhapatnam** and **Cochin.**

Our country has registered remarkable progress in the fields of education and medicine. Still, the standard of living of our people has to improve a lot. All sections of the Indian Community have to work hard to raise the standard of life of the masses.

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers

1. What are the main features of the Constitution of India?
2. How have agricultural and iron and steel industries grown in Independent India?

II. Give short answers

1. When did India become a Republic?
2. Whom do we call as the 'Bismarck of India'?
3. What are the two houses of our Parliament?
4. Mention any two names of projects built across the Indian rivers.

III. Do it yourself

1. Collect the pictures of the leaders of our country.
2. Go on a visit to 'Gandhi Illam' and 'Rajaji Memorial' and 'Kamaraj Memorial' at Guindy in Madras.

CHAPTER XXV

RECENT EVENTS

Thirumathy Indira Gandhi becomes Prime Minister

General Elections to the Seventh Lok Sabha were held on 3rd and 6th January, 1980. Congress (I) won the elections and got an absolute majority in the Lok Sabha.



Fig. 56. Thirumathy Indira Gandhi

Under the Prime Ministership of **Thirumathy Indira Gandhi**, a new Cabinet was sworn in on 14th January, 1980.

Mother Teresa

There may not be any one in our country who does not know about Mother Teresa. She has been devoting her life to the service of the poorest of the poor.

Mother Teresa was born on August 27, 1910 in Skopje, Yugoslavia. She received good education. Then she left Yugoslavia for India. She worked as a teacher in Darjeeling, a hill-station in West Bengal. Then she went on transfer to Calcutta.

There are 3,000 slums in the big city of Calcutta. Mother Teresa picks up very poor children and orphans and takes them to her homes, cleans them, clothes them, feeds them and educates them.

Mother Teresa runs **Nirmal Hirday-homes** for dying destitutes. She thinks that it is the right of a person to die with self-respect. In the last moments of his life he should not feel that he is dying with no one to look after him.

Mother Teresa runs **Sishu Bhavans** in Calcutta and other centres. Sishu Bhavans are homes for the crippled and 'unwanted' children of some homes.

The selfless Mother pays attention to the curing of those who are stricken by leprosy. She runs homes to look after the lepers.

The world-famous **Nobel Peace Prize** for the year 1979 was awarded to Mother Teresa who has been devoting and dedicating her life to the services of the poor and the sick. She is the sixth woman to win the prize. She does not gain dignity or distinction by winning the Nobel Prize, but she has added dignity to that prize by receiving it. The Government of India has conferred the **Bharat Ratna** award on Mother

Teresa in recognition of her selfless and meritorious service to the humanity. Even in her old age, she does not spare pains to do service to the poor, the sick and the orphans. Her selfless service will serve to inspire us.

Elections in 9 States

Assembly Elections in 9 States including Tamil Nadu took place towards the end of May, 1980. The



Fig. 57. M. G. Ramachandran

All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam got a majority in Tamil Nadu elections and it formed a Ministry under the leadership of Thiru **M. G. Rama-Chandran.**

Exercises

I. Give detailed answers.

Describe the life and service of Mother Teresa.

II. Give short answers

1. Who is the present Prime Minister of India ?
2. When did elections to the Seventh Lok Sabha take place ?

III. Do it yourself

Collect the pictures of the Prime Minister of India and the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the ministers in their ministries and paste them in your album.

IMPORTANT HISTORICAL DATES

B.C.	325	—	188	Mauryan Empire
A.D.	78	—	120	Reign of Kanishka
A.D.	300	—	500	Gupta Empire
A.D.	606	—	647	Reign of Harsha
A.D.	600	—	630	Mahendravarman
A.D.	630	—	655	Narasimhavarman
A.D.	985	—	1014	Raja Raja Chola
A.D.	1014	—	1044	Rajendra Chola
A.D.	1206	—	1526	Rule of the Delhi Sultans
A.D.	1347	—	1482	Bahmani Kingdom
A.D.	1336	—	1565	Vijayanagar Empire
A.D.	1526	—	1707	Moghul Empire
A.D.	1526	—	1530	Babur
A.D.	1540	—	1545	Sher Shah sur
A.D.	1556	—	1605	Akbar
A.D.	1658	—	1707	Aurangazeb
A.D.	1674	—	1680	Reign of Shivaji
A.D.	1757			Battle of Plassey
A.D.	1802			Treaty of Bassein
A.D.	1857			The First War of Indian Independence
A.D.	1858			Queen Victoria's Proclamation
A.D.	1885			Foundation of the Indian National Congress
A.D.	1905			The Partition of Bengal
A.D.	1906			Foundation of the Muslim League

A.D. 1919	Montford Reforms
April 13, 1919	Jallianwala Bagh Massacre
A.D. 1920	Non-Cooperation Movement
A.D. 1929	The Lahore Congress
A.D. 1930	Civil Disobedience Movement
A.D. 1935	The Government of India Act
A.D. 1942	The Quit India Movement
August 15, 1947	India attained Freedom
January 26, 1950	Inauguration of the Republic

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